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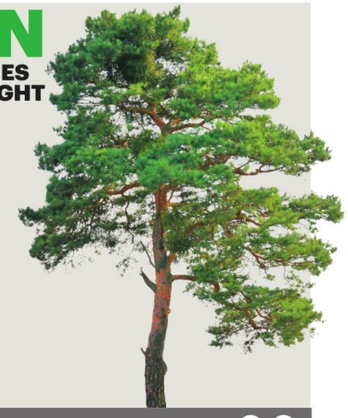
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metroNEWS





HILARY MCDONALD/FOR METRO

...But looks a little stupid

TRANSIT

Metro Line trains could add up to 16 minutes to your commute



Braeden Jones
Metro | Edmonton

The numbers that stare at Edmontonians over the Metro Line are daunting — nearly $700 million, less than four kilometres of track, nearly 18 months delayed.

But Wednesday, a new set of numbers emerged that could see those motorists who don't care for the line or intend to use it pulled into the conversation — loudly.

On Wednesday, Transportation Manager Dorian Wandzura reported to a council committee that it will take three to four light cycles to move queued vehicles through intersections after Metro trains have cleared intersections and the crossing arms go up. That translates to 12 to 16 minutes in wait times for some motorists.

Mayor Don Iveson, who has been a councillor since the beginning of the line, said the delays are "longer than we all thought they were going to be," adding it "causes as much frustration for city council as it does for citizens."

Iveson conceded his confidence in the transportation department's ability to deliver is "a little shaky."

But he stands by the plan, saying council still believes in LRT.

"It remains our top infrastructure priority and we are going to do a better job of building it into the future, and we are going to demand that our administration keep up with that vision that we share with most citizens.

"We do believe that LRT is at the heart of good city building, as long as you build it right. So that's our commitment … we are going to do better."

metro More coverage, page 9

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

McDonald's all-day breakfast, just not in Canada. **Business**

POLICE

Walmart shoppers pepper sprayed

Edmonton police are looking for two people suspected of pepper spraying shoppers and shoplifting in a west end Walmart Tuesday night.

Police were called to the Westmount Walmart at around 9:45 p.m. Tuesday for an "assault with a weapon" complaint.

The suspects were allegedly browsing the Walmart before they pepper sprayed two people and fled.

When police arrived, two people were being treated by ambulance workers for exposure to pepper spray and were taken to hospital complaining of pain.

Walmart staff also alleged the suspects had shoplifted from the store, and Edmonton Police Service detectives are investigating the possible robbery.

They spoke with witnesses and reviewed surveillance footage from the store Wednesday to determine the value of the alleged stolen property.

The two suspects are believed to be in their mid-20s. One is described as a male wearing high top footwear, brown shorts, a black t-shirt, and a black hat with a sticker on the brim.

The other suspect is described as a female who was wearing a black hoodie. She had black hair tied in a ponytail. ANDREA ROSS/METRO



The homeowner posted a Kijiji ad for his outdoor spread of goods on Sept. 1. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

The never-ending yard sale

COMMUNITY

City says case is one of their 'highest priorities'



Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

In July they were miffed. Now, in September, they're getting plain mad.

McKernan neighbourhood residents are increasingly frustrated by a yard sale that has gone into its third month, despite the city's efforts to shut it down.

Since mid-July, the front and back yards of a house on the east corner of 114 Street and 78 Avenue have been completely filled with old lawnmowers, birdcages, rusty pots and pans, broken toboggans and other nick-knacks the owner is trying to sell.

The home's owner has now posted a Kijiji advertisement for the sale.

"You will not believe the size of this garage sale!!!" the ad, dated Sept. 1, reads.

Neighbours can't believe it either.

"He's about to use his lawyer, to use every possible means to keep this thing going," former McKernan Community League president Wayne Rogers said.

"I find him extremely aggressive and it's his way or the wrong way. He sees that he's bringing tremendous value to the community by doing what he's doing."

The city issued an order to clean up the property in July, but the owner appealed the decision, delaying the city's ability to shut it down immediately.

At this point, it's unclear whether the junk will be removed before snow falls.

In an email, Ryan Pleckaitis, director of complaints and investigations in Edmonton, said the city can't speak about the specifics on the investigation and their enforcement of the issue.

"We are doing everything we can to resolve these matters as quickly as we can within all legal parameters," he said.

"This is currently one of our highest priorities and we appreciate the community's concern and patience with us as we work to remedy the situation."

A phone call to the number listed on the Kijiji ad was answered by a man named Matt from the company 1-800-DUMP-NOW.

He said "No comment," when asked about the sale.

Rogers said the homeowner has ignored every effort from both city and neighbours to shut down the operation.

"The city is in the process of putting an injunction in place, but I don't know what that injunction would entail," Rogers said.

"The notices were issued to him in mid-July, but here we are, heading into September."



September 18-20

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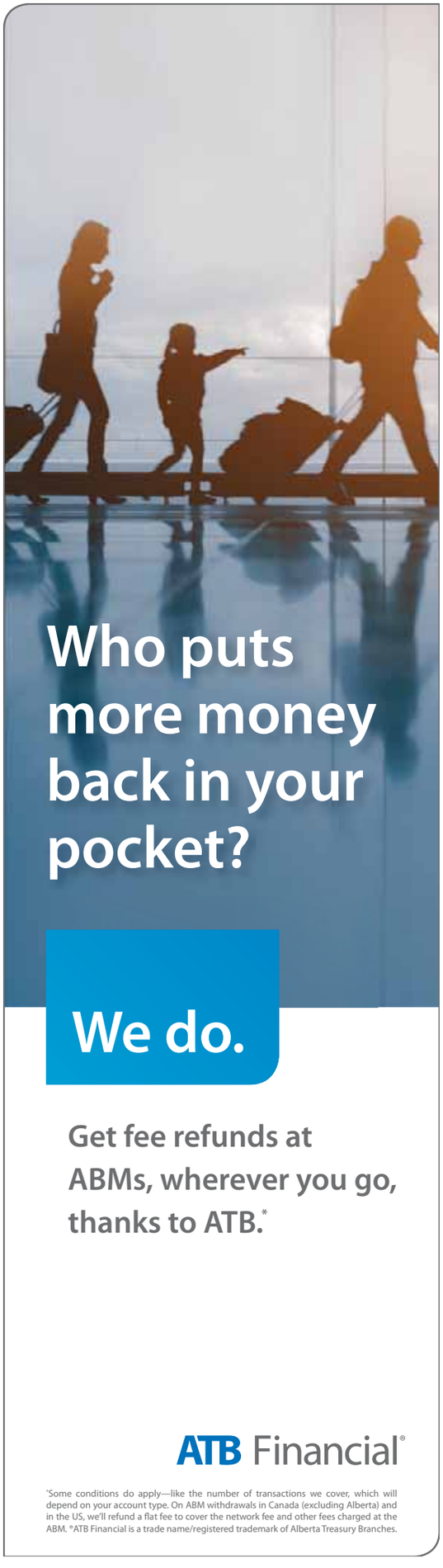
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homeandrenoshow.ca





Meat, just off Whyte Avenue, was initially unable to open because of strict parking rules. HILARY MCDONALD/FOR METRO

Parking requirement is on council's menu

BYLAWS

Pilot project will lessen the demand on local eateries



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

City councillors want to lighten Edmonton's parking rules for restaurants, which are among the heaviest in the country, and have even stalled new eateries from opening their doors.

Edmonton's requirement of one parking space for every 3.6 square metres of dining space is the second highest in Canada, behind only Calgary, and far higher than Saskatoon, Regina, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver.

As a pilot project, councillors voted Tuesday to have city administration draft new regulations for parking in Old Strathcona, Jasper Avenue in Oliver and the 124 Street area that would lower those requirements for new restaurants.

"Compared to other cities we really have to do something," said Coun. Bev Esslinger.

The current restaurant parking requirements don't apply to downtown eateries, which Mayor Don Iveson adds has created an unequal playing field.

"We've actually created a situation that's unfair to people who want to run these types of businesses and can't find space downtown," he said.

That may be a recognition of unfairness that's hard to hear for Saylish Haas.

Last year, Hass — the co-owner of the Next Act and Meat, near Whyte Avenue in Old Strathcona — had to fight to open her new BBQ restaurant, after parking requirements delayed its opening by months.

"We basically were not able to open. We were told we would not ever be able to open unless that bylaw changed," she said.

The initial zoning bylaw would have required Meat to supply 27 parking spaces. The business initially got a waiver from a city development officer, but that waiver was appealed by a neighbouring business — and Meat could not open until city council passed new bylaws.

Haas said onerous parking requirements on businesses slow down Edmonton's progress.

"Whether you are a retail shop or whether you're a restaurant, why should that hold you back from being able to open?

"People seem to panic when they have to walk more than two blocks," she added. "People in other cities walk a lot more than we do."

RESTAURANT RESTRICTIONS

Many cities have exemptions for their downtowns, but generally Edmonton demands more parking than most major Canadian cities.

Edmonton: One space per 3.6 square metres.

Calgary: One space per 3.51 square metres.

Regina: One space per five seats.

Saskatoon: One space per 10 square metres.

Ottawa: One space per six square metres.

Toronto: Zero spaces for places less than 120 square metres, and one per 20 square metres for larger spaces.

Vancouver: One space per 30 square metres.

CRIME

Sex offender nabbed in Prince Albert

A high-risk sex offender wanted on a Canada-wide warrant has been arrested and taken to Edmonton.

Ashton Natomagan, 33, was wanted in connection to an alleged sexual assault and robbery that happened in Edmonton on April 11.

At around 6:30 p.m. that evening, a woman says she was allegedly sexually assaulted by a man while jogging west on 116 Ave. and 102 St.

Natomagan was arrested in Prince Albert, Sask. on Aug. 23. He was transferred to Edmonton on Aug. 31.

Edmonton police initially warned the public about Natomagan in March, when he was released from the Grande Cache Institution after serving a 61-month sentence for sexual assault causing bodily harm.

Shortly after his release, a Canada-wide warrant was issued for his arrest after he allegedly violated his parole conditions by not showing up to his halfway house.

Natomagan is facing nine charges, and is scheduled to appear in Edmonton court on Sept. 2. METRO

CHALLENGES

Smart systems: a checkered history

If other Canadian cities provide a road map, Edmonton's journey to a smart fare system may be full of challenges. Here's a brief look at what's happened elsewhere.

Toronto — Presto
The Presto card failed to live up to its name. The delays started before it was launched in Toronto and continued when launched in Ottawa.

Toronto started looking for a company to develop a smart card program in 2006. Despite a few delays in the original rollout, the cards are now moving (slightly) ahead of schedule.

Toronto's transit system will stop accepting cash or tokens in 2016. Accenture, a large U.S. company was awarded the contract to bring in the service.

Calgary – Televent/ Schneider Electric
Calgary Transit pulled the plug on its smart fare system for the second time this year after Schneider Electric failed to deliver a reliable service.

Calgary first starting looking at a system in 2009 and ended its first contract with Televent in 2012, after the company failed to meet reliability targets.

After promises of change, the company — now called Schneider Electric — again failed to deliver a system and the contract was called off in July of this year.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

BACKGROUND

The Presto tap card system allows users to pay for TTC and regional GO Transit service, as well as many smaller operators in the Greater Toronto Area.



The Presto card in Toronto failed to live up to its name during the initial phases of launching. CHRIS SO/TORONTO NEWS SERVICE



Transportation minister Brian Mason boards a St. Albert Transit bus following a media event Wednesday. Mason announced funding for a region-wide smart fare system. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Deal reached on new transit fare program

TRAVEL

Province to invest $28M in 'transportation solutions'



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Transit users could be tapping their way across the capital region by 2018 and leaving their change in their pockets, after the province agreed Wednesday to fund a region-wide smart fare system.

The province announced $28 million in funding for the proposed system that would allow users to pay with cards instead of cash on buses and LRT lines in Edmonton, St. Albert and Strathcona County.

"It's important that we invest in forward-looking transportation solutions," said Transportation minister Brian Mason announcing the funding in St. Albert Wednesday.

Edmonton Coun. Ben Henderson said he's relieved the plan is moving ahead.

"We've been pushing for it for an awfully long time," he said. "I think smart fare will be much more convenient for the public and easier for us."

Lorna Stewart, Edmonton transit's director of customer experiences, said the city hopes to have a fully functioning system up by 2018. She said the city has already started the work on a public tender.

> **"I think smart fare will be much more convenient for the public and easier for us."**
> Edmonton councillor Ben Henderson

The Smart Bus system, which currently allows users to track buses in real-time, will be an important part of the system, because it forms the basics of the communication for the fare system.

Stewart said like other systems the proposal will have a loyalty type card that can be preloaded and then used as people travel, but they intend to have the system do much more.

"People want to be able to pay with a credit or debit card; they don't want to have to carry cash," she said.

Other smart fare systems in Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver have struggled to implement systems. Stewart said the city hopes to learn from other's mistakes, but she acknowledged it's going to be a challenge.

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Edmonton taxis will soon have dashboard cameras (as seen in the top-right corner of this taxi), a move taxi providers say will improve both customer and driver safety. HILARY MCDONALD/FOR METRO

Cabs to get dash cams

TRANSPORTATION

Safety cited as reason for new feature



Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton taxis are gaining an extra set of eyes on the road — and on the back seat — as dashboard cameras are being introduced.

A year from now, all 560 taxis in the Edmonton Taxi Service Group, which includes Yellow Cab, Prestige, Barrel and Checker taxis will feature the cameras.

Citing safety as the main reason for the cameras, Edmonton Taxi Service Group President Phil Strong said 20 cameras have already been installed.

"A lot of jurisdictions have cameras. They're not compulsory in Edmonton, but we decided it's better for us to get them and start gaining the advantages of having cameras."

The cameras cost around $500 each, plus installation costs. Each camera can record 10 days worth of footage before deleting it and recording again in a continuous loop. They will help with customer and driver safety as well as in accident investigations, Strong said. The move follows Calgary's lead, where most taxi companies use dashboard cameras, Strong said.

"We are close with the Calgary community and have seen the benefits of them," Strong said.

> **The crowd gets a little out of control sometimes. You want to be able to keep that in check.**
> Phil Strong

"In other jurisdictions, it keeps people acting normal. Especially in the evening, the crowd gets a little out of control sometimes. You want to be able to keep that in check."

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RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. ‡ $5,000 is a combined credit consisting of a $1,000 Owner cash (tax inclusive), $3,000 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2015 Silverado Light Duty Double Cab and a $1,000 manufacturer to dealer finance cash (tax exclusive) for a 2015 Silverado 1500 which is available for finance offers only and cannot be combined with special lease rates and cash purchase. ‡ $10,380 is a combined total credit consisting of a $3,000 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and $7,380 manufacturer to dealer finance cash (tax exclusive) on all 2015 Chevrolet Colorado 2SA, Camaro 2SA, Silverado Light Duty (1500) Double Cab LS equipped with a Custom Edition and a $5,180 manufacturer to dealer cash credit (tax exclusive) on Silverado Light Duty (1500) Double Cab WT 4WD, LS, LT or LTZ which is available for cash purchases only and cannot be combined with special lease and finance rates. 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As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. – Visit onstar.ca for coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity may vary by model and conditions. OnStar with 4G LTE connectivity is available on select vehicle models and in select markets. Customers will be able to access OnStar services only if they accept the OnStar User Terms and Privacy Statement (including software terms). OnStar acts as a conduit between customer and third-party service providers. Additional terms apply. ‡‡ Based on 2014 Fuel Consumption Ratings. Testing methods used to determine fuel consumption ratings are set out in regulations. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on how you drive and maintain your vehicle. ‡‡‡ Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ¥ The Chevrolet Silverado LD received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among large light duty pickups in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 Initial Quality StudySM. Study based on responses from 84,367 new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February–May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.



Calgary-Foothills

Voters go to the polls today to elect a new MLA for this northwest Calgary riding — one vacated by former premier Jim Prentice after the May election. Metro asked the current candidates what they think is the biggest challenge facing Calgary and Alberta: **Lucie Edwardson** METRO

ALI BIN ZAHID


ALBERTA LIBERAL PARTY

PARTY: Alberta Liberal
AGE: 27
OCCUPATION: Most recently, Zahid was a product manager for software company, Paperistic.

The biggest immediate challenge facing Calgary and Alberta is the contraction of the economy and the resulting job losses and revenue shortfall.

The longer-term challenge is the prospect of debt financing a record breaking financial deficit, and dealing with a massive backlog of infrastructure projects.

Liberals are ready to make tough decisions around our revenue structure, invest in infrastructure and post secondary education, and work towards an economic climate that encourages investment, diversification, entrepreneurs and innovation.

BLAIR HOUSTON


PC PARTY OF ALBERTA

PARTY: PC
AGE: 40
OCCUPATION: Owner of small business, Houston's Public House on 17th Ave.

The biggest challenge we face right now is thousands of jobs lost here in Calgary, including hundreds just in the past two days.

People who still have a job are worried about their families and their future.

When I talk to people at the doors, they say they're scared.

Their kids are going back to school, their school fees are still high after the NDP promised to reduce or eliminate fees, and families are stretched to the limit.

As a small businessman with a family, I face the same challenges.

That's why I'm running to be the MLA in Calgary-Foothills.

JANET KEEPING


GREEN PARTY OF ALBERTA

PARTY: Green Party of Alberta
AGE: 65
PRIOR OCCUPATION: President/CEO, Sheldon Chumir Foundation for Ethics in Leadership

Alberta's biggest challenge is making an orderly, decisive transition to sustainability. Our economy is heavily dependent upon oil and gas, which threaten the ecosystems upon which all life relies. It emits large volumes of greenhouse gases, as does the coal burned to produce electricity. Social sustainability is also a challenge. We must retrofit communities to provide the schools, childcare, health care, long-term care and other community facilities now missing. We need to treat each other with greater fairness and compassion and base our governmental decisions on the needs of future generations as well as our own.

MARK TAYLOR


THE ALBERTA PARTY

PARTY: Alberta Party
AGE: 42
PRIOR OCCUPATION: Entrepreneur/Professional Engineer

The biggest issue facing Albertans today is our slowing economy. Thousands of Albertans are out of work, more are worried they won't have another paycheque in two weeks and yet politicians are pointing fingers at who's to blame.

The NDP blame the PCs, the Wildrose blame the NDP. None of these parties are talking about how to get Albertans back to work. Only the Alberta Party has talked about tax breaks and grants for small businesses.

We've also mentioned taking advantage of a low Canadian dollar to grow our tourism and arts industries. It's time to put people before politics.

PRASAD PANDA


WILDROSE PARTY

PARTY: Wildrose
AGE:52
OCCUPATION: Professional Engineers and a senior supply chain manager for Suncor.

The biggest challenge facing Calgary and Alberta is the downturn in the energy sector and its impact on jobs and the economy.

Calgarians are worried and hurting. Over 35,000 people have lost their jobs in the energy industry since the beginning of the year. The NDP seem insensitive to the need to create a positive and stable climate that encourages investment and job creation.

I will work hard to make sure that the NDP hears every day in the Legislature that Albertans did not give them a mandate to take risky experiments with our economy and our jobs.

BOB HAWKESWORTH


ALBERTA LIBERAL PARTY

PARTY: NDP
AGE: 64
FROMER OCCUPATION: MLA for Calgary-Mountain and city councillor for 23 years

Calgary is facing the challenge of addressing an economic downturn, as is the province as a whole. Premier Notley has committed to addressing the issue of finances and jobs by implementing a job creation strategy and encouraging economic diversification. It is also a good idea to move ahead with projects like the new cancer centre and the Ring Road completion. Now is not the time to cut back on health and education spending. Laying off teachers and nurses won't help the economy. Doing what's right for Albertans is what I'm committed to and so is Premier Notley.


*jobbank.gc.ca

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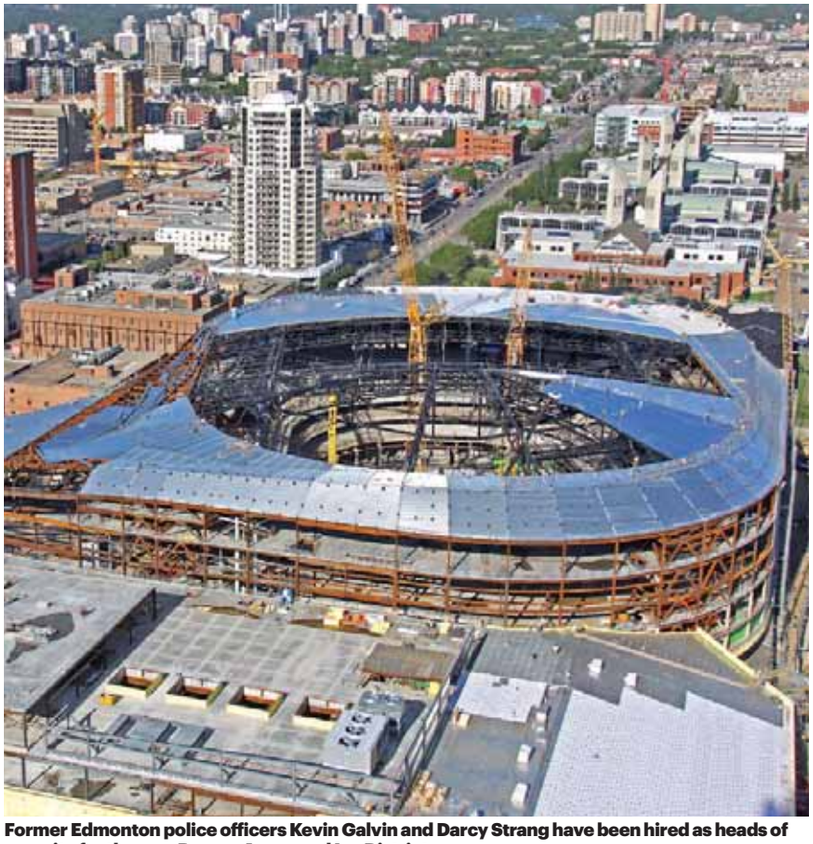
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Former Edmonton police officers Kevin Galvin and Darcy Strang have been hired as heads of security for the new Rogers Arena and Ice District. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Police veterans on Ice District security

JOBS

New arena will also be under care of officers Strang, Galvin



Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

Two former police officers with decades of experience in community policing and organized crime have been hired as heads of security for the new arena and surrounding district.

Kevin Galvin has been hired as senior vice-president of enterprise security and risk management. Darcy Strang will serve as vice-president of the security and operations bureau. Both men have 28 years each of experience with the Edmonton Police Service.

Galvin held posts as Superintendent of the downtown division, operating and overseeing community policing and frontline response, financial planning and the serious crimes investigation unit.

Strang served with the EPS in many sections including homicide, domestic offender crimes, and the professional standards branch.

He was inspector of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit and with the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team (ALERT).

Galvin and Strang will be tasked with developing a security plan for the Rogers Arena and the Ice District.

"We both have extensive interest in community consultation and community involvement, and this is really just an extension of that," Strang said. "We're working with similar people on some similar issues."

Their experience in community policing will translate to how they manage security at the 25-acre arena district, Galvin said. They will be looking closely into risk management practices currently employed by other arenas and major venues in North America.

"The size makes things a bit more difficult and requires more collaboration," Strang said. "There's a lot of work to be done and a lot of different types of research we will have to do.

"But arenas are not unique within North America and there are so many things we can take from them. We just have to be open and accepting to different ways of security."

> **"We both have extensive interest in community consultation and community involvement, and this is really just an extension of that.**
>
> Vice President of the Security and Operations Bureau for Rogers Arena and Ice District
> Darcy Strang

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LRT will cause serious delays

METRO LINE SCANDAL

Council told that traffic disruptions won't be temporary



Braeden Jones
Metro | Edmonton

In the days ahead, much will be written about the delays to traffic flows that the Metro Line LRT is creating on several arterial roads in Edmonton's downtown core.

But what emerged Wednesday during a transportation committee meeting is that delays won't be an interim thing — instead, at best, the delays will improve by 15 per cent, according to transportation manager Dorian Wandzura.

That means 15 per cent less time at rush hour than the predicted 12-16 minute delays Wandzura outlined Wednesday.

"What we are finding now is in peak hours you could get queuing," he said.

He added those delays will be "significant during peak rush hours," according to the city's testing.

Wandzura told council he estimates the average wait for a driver at a crossing arm will be between two and four minutes, but 12-16 minutes during rush hours at some intersections.

Trains ran on "simulated Metro Line service" in August to identify issues, and the city has been working to mitigate delays, he said.

But traffic at some intersections is always going to be held up for the maximum amount of wait time or worse, regardless of synchronizing efforts.

"At Princess Elizabeth and 111 Avenue, the traffic lights will hold red for four minutes," Wandzura said. "That's the impact of our LRT on the road network."

Wandzura said that "10,000 passengers" every day getting on and off will slow things down, too.

Mayor Don Iveson called the delays "very disappointing" and hinted that they could have shaped key decisions on the Metro Line. "If (council) had been told the delays at intersections would be like this, council may have made different decisions," he said.



$700 M
Amount the Metro Line has cost to build and get to this point

12-16
Number of minutes motorists can expect to wait at Princess Elizabeth Avenue and 106 Street during peak morning and evening commutes

15
Percentage by which Edmonton Transit expects the situation to improve by once the Metro Line is taken off 'interim' line-of-sight service — the date of which is unknown

3-4
Number of traffic light cycles it's expected a motorist will experience during these delays before travelling on their way

METRO FILE

BACKGROUND ON 2009 DECISION

A 2009 council decision to move the NAIT LRT station north from 106 Street to just south of the campus was made without administration re-assessing what it would mean for traffic.

That decision is coming back to haunt both council and the administration, as this lack of research could mean that drivers at the Princess Elizabeth Avenue and 106 Street intersection could wait as long as 16 minutes and four light cycles during rush hour.

Mayor Don Iveson, who has been a councillor since the birth of the Metro Line project, said he's unhappy with the wait times and noted previous councils may have been a "bit thrifty" in the decision to keep trains running across roads rather than under them, in costlier tunnels. As a result, Iveson hinted that tunnels may be considered for a line that's not yet open.

"If we are going to create intersections that don't work, I think this council wants to know in advance and put grade separation in so that the train is a win-win," he said Wednesday. "And if it costs a little bit more, I think what I've heard from Edmontonians and I think from my colleagues is that would be money well spent."

Iveson also said moving the NAIT station would require students cross Princess Elizabeth and walk up into the campus. "We don't know if that's feasible or not but we're going to get an answer in the next couple of weeks as to whether that's worth doing." METRO

COUNCILLORS SAY THEY WERE 'HOODWINKED,' 'GOBSMACKED'

Transportation manager Dorian Wandzura said his department has been running simulations over the past couple of weeks to figure out the optimum timing between trains and signalling lights, and has struck "a reasonable balance."

But when he presented the results to council, they didn't think the worst-case scenario of delays as long as 16 minutes in rush hour was reasonable at all.

Coun. Bev Essinger said she felt like council had been "hoodwinked," as previous reports did not indicate wait times nearly as long.

Coun. Scott McKeen said he was "gobsmacked."

And Mayor Don Iveson? He's planning to validate and double-check "all of the planning assumptions" that went into the Valley Line to make sure there are no hidden surprises.

"I'm not just going to take Transportation's word for it any more," he said. He was a councillor in 2009 when the decision was made to run the Metro Line on the surface and at-grade. He said council had "asked very hard questions" and grilled the transportation department on the traffic impacts.

"We were told in no uncertain terms at the time that there would be moderate increases to congestion ... one to two light cycles to clear our intersections, but we were never told anything about three to four.

"Council asked those questions at the time and we were given information that has turned out not to be accurate, and that is very, very frustrating for us... We can only make decisions based on the information we had." BRAEDEN JONES/METRO



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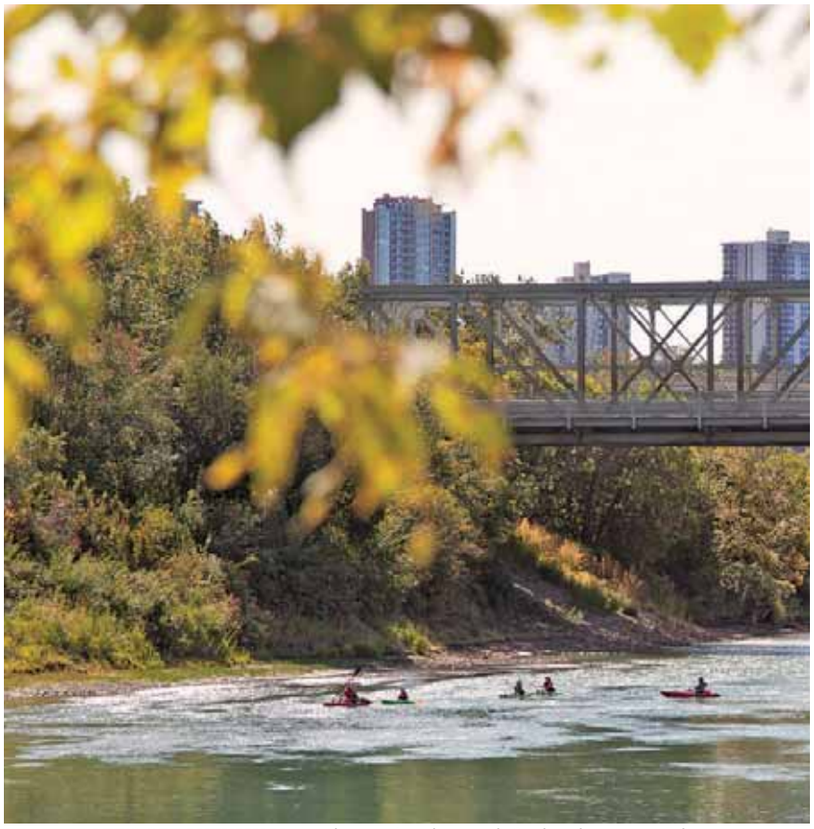
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SPOTTED LET'S GET AUTUMNAL Kayakers enjoy the North Saskatchewan as Edmonton slowly falls into fall — evidenced here by yellowing leaves. HILARY MCDONALD/METRO

Lobbies take over energy dialogue

CLIMATE CHANGE

'Usual suspects' flood meeting for policy input

Advocates on both sides of Alberta's climate-change debate are mobilizing their grassroots in hopes of influencing the panel that will recommend how the province should address the issue.

In one corner, the "Energy Citizens." Created by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, they are a group of people who, according to their website, "play a role in spreading the word about the positive role energy plays in our lives every day."

In the other: Greenpeace's newly launched "Get Fresh" campaign, which says "the Government of Alberta is creating a fresh plan to address climate change in Alberta and needs to hear your voice."

Both groups are urging as many of their supporters as possible to fill out an online survey the province hopes will offer insight into what average Albertans think. Both sides want their members to turn out in numbers to government townhall and public-input sessions. Both groups are tweeting and Facebook-posting like crazy.

"We are trying to get our members and the general public engaged in the consultation process," Greenpeace spokesman Mike Hudema wrote in an email.

"This is a way for people to learn more; this is a way for people to do more and to speak up and have their voice heard," said Jeff Gaulin of the petroleum association.

In the middle, heading the government's panel and tasked with listening to both partisans and public, sits Andrew Leach.

"One part of our mandate was to provide an opportunity for Albertans to be heard," he said. "That's not the same as getting a statistically representative sample of what the population of Alberta wants."

Early indications suggest the consultations are drawing interest. More than 400 people turned out Tuesday night in Calgary, said Leach. Many were what he called "the usual suspects" — technical experts or those with a longstanding interest in the issue.

"If you said, 'Who are my go-to people for information on a particular area within greenhouse-gas policy?', a lot of them were in the room last night."

Partisans of all sides were present, he said.

"That's a challenge in any type of process like this. You're getting a selective sample of those who are mobilized for one reason or another. You have to know that going in."

A second meeting was scheduled for Wednesday night in Edmonton. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

The Energy Citizens were created in 2014, inspired by an American Petroleum Institute program in the U.S.

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When tweets defeat candidates

Metro sits down with former Calgary-Nose Hill Liberal contender Ala Buzreba — who resigned after posts she made in her mid-teens came to light — to talk trolls, double standards and being a youth in politics



Omar Mouallem
For Metro

By now there are simply too many campaigns to name that have been ended by the Ghost of Social Media Past. But it's hard to think of a Canadian politician who's endured a public shaming as cruel as Ala Buzreba's.

The Liberal Party candidate in Calgary-Nose Hill recently resigned after inappropriate tweets she wrote in her mid-teens were unearthed and used like digital pitchforks to chase her out of the race. Many within the social media mob fixated on her gender, Arab ethnicity and Muslim faith. "Such a cute little terrorist," goes a typical comment.

Compare this to William Moughrabi, a Montreal Conservative candidate, who is also Arab. He didn't endure any bigoted backlash following revelations of inappropriate Facebook comments he'd made at nearly twice the age Buzreba was when she made hers.

Numerous studies, some as old as Facebook itself, have shown that women and feminine usernames incur anywhere from two to 25 times more trolling, threatening or sexual harassment than their male or masculine counterparts. The 20-year-old community volunteer, University of Calgary student and Alberta Young Liberals executive says she's dealt with trolls since her social justice passions drove her to online forums and Twitter in junior high.

Last June, shortly after announcing her candidacy, Buzreba learned that a blogger had Photoshopped and spread pornographic images of her being penetrated by Justin Trudeau. Sun Media columnist Tarek Fatah also equated her hijab with ISIS support. What followed with the scandal was merely a crescendo of the racism and sexism she suffered.

Buzreba spoke with Metro about the backlash, double standards and how shamings like hers could discourage youth from entering politics.



After Ala Buzreba announced her candidacy last June, a blogger Photoshopped pornographic images of her and spread them online. CONTRIBUTED

Metro: How has the scandal affected you?

Buzreba: The backlash is continuing to this day. People are mean to me and it's affecting my personal life. I've been kicked out of different organizations and clubs that I was a part of. I've had ex-supervisors disassociate with me.

When was the first time you were trolled online?

I was really interested in debate since the time I was 13 or 14. I would go online, read the news, look at what people are saying. I was in the "comments" section a lot, fighting back to people who were constantly belittling people like me — Muslim women. But I debate in a nice way; I don't look for fights.

> **People called me "Muslim trash" .... My hijab was always the focus. People are terrified of it.**
> Ala Buzreba

Tweets like "Your mother should have used a coat hanger" don't sound nice. What were you responding to?

"The only good Muslim is a dead Muslim," was one. At some point, you just throw it back at them. They don't like their own medicine. People called me "Muslim trash," "freeloader of the Liberal government." My hijab was always the focus. People are terrified of it.

It was only a year ago you told Jewish-Canadian pundit Ezra Levant to "Pack up and leave to Israel." Why'd you tweet that?

He had said something on the radio like, "Remember, this is Canada, not Gaza." I couldn't believe radio stations would (broadcast) his racist ad. Then I tweeted back. I knew about Ezra, because he'd attacked two people I went to school with, so stupid me for saying anything.

Do you admit your comment was at least equally racist?

Not equally. It was rude. It wasn't nice. But I didn't tell him to "go back to Israel." I told him to go there. I didn't even know where he's from.

Before the scandal, pornographic pictures of you were Photoshopped and spread online by a blogger. How'd you respond?

He wasn't the only one. There was a lot a of Photoshopped stuff. I was embarrassed to even tell anybody because I didn't want them to see the photos. We reported it to Facebook and Facebook said it's freedom of expression.

Did you ever grow numb to it?

No. It hurts every time. But the blows loosen the more you get it. If anything all the rude comments I got when I was younger helped me grow and develop some tough skin.

Do you think you can return to politics?

Yes. I have more to see and more to learn. I want to change how Canadian politics operates and I want more women and young people voting. It was exciting to have so many of my friends come out to volunteer politically for their first times.

Can parties expect candidates with clean online records?

If they held the standard of being perfect online, they'll have fewer and fewer candidates every year. The person you were on social media doesn't necessarily mean the person you're becoming or the person you are now. I go through my posts at age 13, and I think why did I post that — it was so lame. People change all the time.

What's your message to young potential candidates?

Be careful for what can be taken out of context. Be careful of people who just want a reaction out of you.

Interview has been edited for length.

Ghosts of social media past

1 Malcolm Azania, NDP, 2004



In the days of MySpace, the Edmonton candidate wrote that Jews were part of the "white supremacy" in an emailed debate unearthed a decade later. Azania presciently told CBC, "The Internet is the most efficient technology in the universe to make a jackass out of yourself."

2 Ray Lam, BC NDP, 2009

The young candidate resigned after photos on Facebook became public, including one where he was palming a woman's breast and another with his pants down. That he was gay or that it was Pride didn't matter to his opponents.

3 Deborah Drever, Alberta NDP, 2015



One inappropriate Facebook comment wasn't enough for the newly elected Alberta government to boot the 26-year-old, but a trail of media gaffes, including one in which she posed as a gang-rape victim for an album cover, definitely was.

4 William Moughrabi, Conservatives, 2015



After year-old Facebook comments like "Karma takes too long. I'd rather beat the s--t out of you now" surfaced, the Montreal candidate quickly apologized and closed his online accounts.

ELECTION 2015

Chief says he won't vote, even as AFN seeks to mobilize voters

The Assembly of First Nations says aboriginal voters could be deciding factors in as many as 51 ridings and, in a close race, could determine the outcome of the Oct. 19 federal election — if they actually cast ballots.

But AFN national chief Perry Bellegarde may have undercut his organization's campaign to mobilize aboriginal voters with a frank admission that he's never voted in the past and doesn't intend to do so this time, either.

"It's a very personal choice," Bellegarde told a news conference Wednesday.

He said he's never voted because he's been in various First Nations leadership roles and wanted to preserve the appearance of impartiality.

Moreover, Bellegarde said he was following the advice of First Nations elders who advised him against voting, arguing that the Crown has treaty obligations that must be honoured no matter which party forms government.

"Out of respect for those old people, I think that's why I haven't voted."

Such views are not uncommon among aboriginal peoples and are, at least partly, responsible for abysmally low turnout in elections. Elections Canada estimates that the average turnout for eligible voters on First Nations reserves is 44 per cent, well below the overall 61 per cent turnout in 2011.

Pressed by reporters to explain how he hopes to encourage others to vote if he won't do it himself, Bellegarde suggested he'll "revisit" his decision to refrain from voting. But in an interview a short time later, he dug in his heels, stressing his need to remain strictly neutral so that he can work with whomever forms government.

"If you have to choose, then you lose that impartiality and non-partisanship," he said.

At the news conference, Bellegarde unveiled the AFN's election priorities, to which it wants all parties to commit. The priorities — including increased funding for First Nations education, training, child welfare, health care and police services, creation of a national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and an action plan to address violence against aboriginal women — are aimed at "closing the gap" between aboriginals and other Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ITU WORLD TRIATHLON

Canada's triathlon city welcomes the world



CONTRIBUTED

It's race week in Edmonton, and the 'triathlon city' is ready. While the Tour of Alberta bike race comes through Edmonton Sept. 7, the preceding days will showcase the ITU's World Triathlon Series Tour at Hawrelak Park, with thousands expected to participate and/or watch the excitement.

Following the successful 2014 Grand Final, Edmonton is once again welcoming triathletes from around the globe, this time for the next-to-last stop before the 2015 Grand Final in Chicago.

Two jam-packed days of competition Sept. 5 and 6 will showcase athletes in elite World Cup races, standard and sprint distance age group races that determine national and provincial champions, a fun try-a-tri and a 5k/1km Party in the Park run.

"There's about 1,200 people in all the races — we have full fields of men and women, so it'll be a spectacular event," said Sheila O'Kelly, general manager of the World Triathlon Series (WTS) for Edmonton. "Edmonton is known as Canada's triathlon city for good reason — the city is proactive about hosting international events, and that support and pride shows."

As evidence, O'Kelly points to Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson and city councillors who will participate in Sunday's corporate events (sprint and team races), plus teams from Alberta Health, fire and rescue and police.

In addition to a hoped-for 15,000-20,000 spectators to watch races in Hawrelak Park or along the nearby run and bike routes, the ITU World Triathlon Edmonton is being broadcast (live-stream and tape-delayed) to an international audience via CBC.

Edmonton's triathlon is a feat of swimming (in Hawrelak Park Lake) followed by a 20k or 40k bike race and then a 5k or 10k run through the city's river valley. Youth, junior and adult age categories, Kids of Steel, Para-athletes and elite men and women will compete for points and series results in action starting Saturday, Sept. 5. Junior and youth competition and the elite para triathlon go that day, while Sunday, Sept. 6 features morning corporate events followed by the premiere afternoon action — women and men's elite triathlon and youth/junior mixed relay.

O'Kelly said it was having the 2001 World Championships in Edmonton that started the legacy of the city as a hub for triathlon — in fact, the unique Edmonton Triathlon Academy was born out of that first championship.

"We're still growing — the triathlon events held in Edmonton provide great exposure for the sport," she said. "We've been doing this here for 15 years now — it's a positive experience not just for the ITU World Triathlon, but for the whole city too."



CONTRIBUTED

Edmonton triathlete aims to get back on top

Elite triathlete Paula Findlay has had a taste of being number one in the world, and she's working hard to get there again.

The 26 year-old Edmonton triathlete (ranked in the top 50 worldwide) trains several months a year in Boulder, Colorado with a group of athletes who compete and travel around the world — U.S., Europe, Australia.

The training is demanding, about 23 hours a week of two to three sports per day (swim, bike, run) plus gym sessions, physiotherapy, etc.

"It's great to train at different altitudes with strong athletes from other countries," said Findlay. "I like the challenge and variety of all three sports too — it's hard work but very rewarding."

Findlay started as an Edmonton swimmer at age 11 before moving on to high school track and then triathlon at the U of A. That same year, 2006, she qualified for triathlon's junior worlds and was hooked.

"My goal is to qualify for the 2016 Rio games. Chicago is a qualifying race, but Edmonton is a big one on the circuit too. It's important for me to do well here — it's home, and family and friends can be here. That makes it special," she said.

As she's just in her mid-20s, Findlay admits she'll probably want to aim for another Olympics down the road. For now though, she's got her sights set on Rio.

ITU WORLD TRIATHLON EDMONTON

Free Admission
September 4-6th
Hawrelak Park



CONTRIBUTED

Focusing on athlete development

Since 2010, the Edmonton Triathlon Academy (ETA) has coached youth (ages 12015), juniors (ages 16-19) and under-23 athletes to their full potential under the direction of ETA head coach Kevin Clark.

Unique in Canada, the academy is the legacy of a decade of Edmonton hosting highly successful international triathlon events. After the 2007 Edmonton World Cup, the ETA board saw a need for an athlete development centre, and so let other Canadian communities host the World Cups while ETA became a focus for developing local and regional young talent.

"But Sheila O'Kelly and the board saw that there would be no point developing the talent if there wasn't a showcase for it. So the academy and triathlon series are a great combination. There are no other world cup events that have this in place—there's great support from the city and so much positive energy surrounding it," said ETA head coach Kevin Clark, who currently trains about 40 triathletes, mostly in and around the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre and Hawrelak Park.

While all ETA athletes commit to at least a 12-month program, junior athletes swim, bike and run part-time, able to train while going to school and continuing with their current clubs or coaches. These athletes take in 5 or 6 sessions per week—an early morning swim followed by after-school bike or runs. Juniors manage from 8 to 10 sessions per week, while full-time senior athletes (19-plus) train 10 or more times per week, racing at a Continental Cup or higher level.

"There's no pressure for the kids and youth. They don't yet specialize, and they still do volleyball or soccer, plus focus on academics," said Clark. "Gradually, athletes know if triathlon is for them, or if they want to focus on one sport. We always want an athlete to find their passion—to reach their full potential."

Clark said many current ETA members are on provincial teams or are participating in Canada Summer Games, Continental Cups or half Iron Mans. All are participating in the Edmonton triathlon, and will be inspired by the several elite athletes who will stay and train in the city between this week-end's event and the Chicago Grand Final two weeks later.

"The current world champion from Spain will be here—it's inspirational and motivating for our kids to train around and watch athletes at the top of their game," he said.

Edmonton athlete the perfect choice for triathlon ambassador

You can't choose a much better ambassador for the 2015 World Triathlon Series Edmonton than James Dean. The 38 year-old St. Albert physiotherapist and father of four is also a four-time Iron Man finisher, a current sprint and Olympic distance national triathlon team member, provincial aquathon champion, and a former Canadian long course triathlon team member with 21 completed marathons.

Add to that a penchant for adventuring as City Chase champion and work as director of the St. Albert triathlon — Dean is one busy man, with the obvious strive and spirit embodied by the Edmonton triathlon.

"With City Chase, I've had to jump out of an airplane and off a five-storey building, swim in the ocean and much more, but triathlon is actually a more intense experience," Dean said. "With ITU sprint events, you're at your limit for the entire race — there's no down time."

The high-octane athlete said last year's team triathlon events gave him some of his best-ever results (placing seventh in the world), so he's hopeful about doing well in this weekend's sprint too. Dean will take on a 750-metre swim, 20k bike ride and 5k run — though he said cycling is his strength.

"I do a variety of training each week — run three times, cycle five times, and swim three times," he said. "I'm not racing in Chicago for the final, but I'm aiming for the world triathlon championships in Cozumel, Mexico in September, 2016."

As ambassador of Edmonton's WTS event, Dean said he wants to promote sport in general and this race in particular — to encourage people to come watch, volunteer or participate in the races.

"I work with kids on the rehab size of my work, so as ambassador I'm focused on growing the sport to all ages. Edmonton has a world-class race — athletes are always wowed by the detail put into the event, the river valley and the clean, paved, beautiful routes. It's first-class all around," Dean said.

Not to forget the important social aspect of triathlon, Dean also points to the 5k/1k run/walk party in the park on the Friday before the weekend races, which feature entertainment and beer gardens, a sport and lifestyle expo, and kids zone.

"All these events allow fans to see some of the best athletes in the world, while participating and having fun foo. And it's free to the public," he said.



CONTRIBUTED

ITU WORLD TRIATHLON EDMONTON

THE SUPERH ARE

EVENT SCHEDULE PROGRAMME DES ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 / VENDREDI, 4 SEPTEMBRE	
18:00	Run Party in the Park

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 / SAMEDI, 5 SEPTEMBRE	
07:30	Junior Women Race
09:30	Junior Men Race
10:45	Youth Women Race
11:30	Youth Men Race
13:15	Paratriathlon World Cup
16:15	Elite Paratriathlon Medal Ceremonies

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 / DIMANCHE, 6 SEPTEMBRE	
08:30	Age Group Standard Race/Relay – Provincial Standard Championships
09:15	Age Group Sprint Race/Relay – National Sprint Championships
11:00	Corporate Sprint Race
11:20	Corporate and Open Try-a-Tri Race
13:36	Elite Women
15:36	Elite Men
17:30	Youth/Junior Mixed Relay



Road t



Name: Javier Gomez Noya
Year Born: 1983
Country: Spain
Current WTS Ranking: 1st
Achievements:
2008, 2010, 2013 & 2014 ITU World Champion
Olympic Silver Medalist – London 2012
ITU World Sub Champion 2007, 2009, 2012



Name: Vincent Luis
Year Born: 1989
Country: France
Current WTS Ranking: 4th
Achievements:
2015 ITU World Triathlon Hamburg – 1st
2015 ITU World Triathlon Abu Dhabi – 2nd
2012 London Olympic Games – 11th



Name: Richard Murray
Year Born: 1989
Country: South Africa
Current WTS Ranking: 5th
Achievements:
2015 ITU World Triathlon London – 5th
2015 ITU World Triathlon Abu Dhabi – 3rd
2012 London Olympic Games – 17th

UMANS
COMING

Free Admission
September 4-6th
Hawrelak Park



Hawrelak Park, in general, is the best spot to watch the races. With announcer, Greg Welch, former pro triathlete giving race, the entire race can be caught live on big screens from the Grandstands and Beer Garden. Spectators can enjoy live entertainment throughout the park as well as the Sport & Lifestyle Expo, food trucks and the Kid Zone.

1. **Swim Start –** a great place to watch the mass start
2. **Grandstands –** best spot to watch the entire race and it's free! Catch all the action on the TV screens and watch all the transitions, bike and run laps live in front of you. Let's not forget the incredible view of the finish line.
3. **Beer Garden –** close to swim/bike transition with an amazing view of the finish line. Grab a seat and a beverage and enjoy the race.
4. **Emily Murphy Overpass –** watch the athletes head up and down Emily Murphy hill then over towards Victoria Park Road. After the 4th lap on the bike, head into the park to watch the run.
5. **The Big "E" Turn Around –** want to see the action but not sure about coming down to the park? This highly televised spot will see the athletes turn around the Big "E" on the Victoria Park Road hill. The Big "E" is a celebration of the downtown core, so take a picture and post on social media! #GetIntoTheRace #yegdtBigE
6. **Transportation –** Parking is available at Windsor Parkade at a weekend rate of $5 a day. I **FREE** shuttle service to Hawrelak Park for all. I **Friday, September 4, 2015:** The park will be open to traffic -Limited parking available I **Saturday, September 5, 2015:** Buses will be running on an approximate 10 minute service frequency from Windsor Car Park (116 Street and 92 Avenue) I It will also make a stop off west of 116 Street on both sides of 87 Ave to Hawrelak Park for those who took the LRT to Jubilee. Shuttles will start running at 6:00 am. The last departure from Hawrelak Park back to Windsor Car Park will be approximately 6:00 pm I **Sunday, September 6, 2015:** Buses will be running on an approximate 10 minute service frequency from Windsor Car Park (116 Street and 92 Avenue) I It will also make a stop off west of 116 Street on both sides of 87 Ave to Hawrelak Park for those who took the LRT to Jubilee. Shuttles will start running at 6:00 am. The last departure from Hawrelak Park back to Windsor Car Park will be at approximately 20:00 (8:00 pm). ***NOTE*** Due to restrictions on the roadways around Hawrelak Park during the Elite races, there will be NO shuttle service from 13:15 to 14:40 (1:15 pm to 2:40 pm) and then again from 15:30 to 16:40 (3:30 pm to 4:40 pm). We highly recommend to ride your bike to the park and bring your own lock

to Rio



Name: Stefan Daniel
Year Born: 1997
Country: Canada
Current WTS Ranking: 1st
Achievements:
2015 Rio De Janeiro ITU World Paratriathlon Event – 2nd
2015 London ITU World Paratriathlon Event – 1st



Name: Rachel Klamer
Year Born: 1990
Country: Netherlands
Current WTS Ranking: 5
Achievements:
2015 ITU World Triathlon Gold Coast – 6th
2015 ITU World Triathlon Hamburg – 5th
2015 ITU World Triathlon Stockholm – 8th



Name: Paula Findlay-Elite
Year Born: 1989
Country: Canada
Current WTS Ranking: 39
Achievements:
2015 Toronto Pan American Games – 9th
2014 Cartagena ITU World Cup – 2nd
2011 World Championship Series Sydney – 1st

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Behind training for a triathlon

It doesn't look easy to the un-initiated — the endurance swim followed by a lengthy bike sprint and ending with a non-too-short run. It's certainly not an event you can sign up for on a whim, but what exactly is involved in training for a triathlon?

Training for a triathlon doesn't have to be arduous unless you have specific goals. Try-a-tri involves a 300m swim, 10km bike, 2.5 km run, while sprint is a 750m swim, 20 km bike and 5 km run, and standard is 1.5 km swim, 40 km bike and 10 km run. To prepare, beginners can sign up for stroke improvement classes around town before joining one of the local triathlon clubs.

"Once people feel the thrill of excitement of completing a triathlon, there's no going back," said Jackie Fetter, beginner triathlete. "I've finished a few races, but I'm definitely not experienced. I just love the thrill of participating and proving to myself that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to."

While training for a triathlon typically involves swimming, biking and running throughout the week, the fact that you are participating in a number of activities means there's no chance for boredom to set in, according to Kevin Masters, co-owner and coach of Edmonton's Aerobic Power. Since the mid-1990s, Masters has competed in 10 Iron Mans, and many times in ITU World Triathlon Championships.

"Plus the cross training can lessen the chance of injury. Edmonton is a fantastic



CONTRIBUTED

place to train and race — nationally, we have one of the best training systems with the river valley, and you can easily cycle on city streets or farm roads on the outskirts," he said.

There are a number of triathlon clubs and training centres in the city that can help achieve your goals, whether it be to complete your first triathlon, or qualify for the age-group teams that participate in world championships. Check with triathlon.ab.ca for more details.

Political gender gap plays out

ELECTION 2015

Men support right-wing parties, while women veer left



Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

With three federal parties neck and neck and neck, this is a historically close three-way election, and historic political fissures along gender lines could make a crucial difference.

Metro talked with several political experts about how gender politics are playing out in this election and all said there has long been a gender gap in Canadian politics where men, more than women, support parties on the right and women support those on the left, and that's been playing out in the polls so far.

Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, a professor of Canadian politics at Queen's University, said she's noticed politicians — especially Liberals and New Democrats — have been working especially hard in this election to win women's votes, and highlight women's issues.

That includes the NDP's pledge to end violence against women and their national child care plan, and the Liberals' focus on nominating female candidates, and pro-choice candidates.

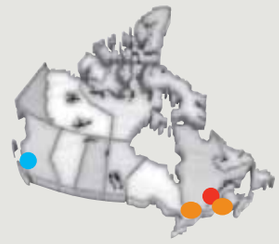
"They're battling for the centre and the left, and this is where a greater proportion of women lie in terms of political orientation, compared to men," she said.

Chris Cochrane, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, said that battle for the centre left will likely determine the outcome of the election.



Justin Trudeau takes a photograph with a supporter Wednesday in Trois-Rivieres, Que.
PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY



- **Stephen Harper** will be in Surrey, B.C.
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Montreal and Brossard, Que.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Montreal and Toronto.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Quebec.

While the parties have near-equal support in the polls, the Conservative party is the second choice of "virtually no one," which leaves the party little opportunity for growth, he said.

"This is what's making it such an interesting election for everybody — we really don't know how these people are going to vote, because a lot of Liberal voters have the NDP in the back of their minds, and vice-versa for NDP voters. It could swing either way at the end of the election and quite easily unseat the Conservatives," Cochrane said.

In the 2011 election, the Conservatives won an estimated 35 per cent of women's votes, plus 45 per cent of men's. No party, with the exception of the NDP in some polls, is polling as strongly among female decided voters today, as the Conservatives' 2011 win.

But now that the incumbent party's support is low, its large gender gap is a bigger problem, and appears to be worsening, said Nelson Wiseman, director of the U of T's Canadian Studies program.

"If the Conservatives lose, in a large measure, it will be because they lost a lot of the women's vote since last time."

Homeless in Vancouver — even with $1.3 million for a house



Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Kate Whyte found out the hard way that even a million bucks can't always buy a decent home in Metro Vancouver's insane real estate market, where home sales soared to nearly 30 per cent above the 10-year average this summer, according to Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver data released Wednesday.

Whyte, a 48-year-old homemaker who works part time in the film industry, and her husband were looking to downsize to a smaller house in their North Vancouver community after two of their three children left for university.

They sold their five-bedroom house in May for $1.3 million, figuring they'd have no problem finding a smaller place in the area. But then the market "went absolutely crazy," Whyte said Wednesday.

Every house they looked at suddenly jumped in price, with million-dollar homes needing extensive renovations to the tune of a few hundred thousand dollars.

As a supporter of the #DontHave1Million campaign, made up of young professionals pressuring the government to tackle the housing affordability problem in a city where the average house price is over a million bucks, she even made a tongue-in-cheek sign reading, "Homeless, have $1 million dollars, can't find a home to buy."

With their move out date approaching on Saturday, her family wound up buying a house in August for just over $1 million.

It's much smaller, on an odd lot, is leaking and needs extensive renos, she said.

"Nobody wanted it because it's a real eyesore," she said. "When I tell people what I have to fix, their jaws drop."

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Tensions rising in Europe

HUNGARY

Migrants face pushback as right-wing protests flare

Hundreds of frustrated migrants demanding passage to Germany jostled with riot police beside Budapest's main international train station Wednesday as Hungary spent a second day trying to keep thousands of asylum seekers from spilling deeper into Europe.

Scores of officers pushed back the crowd, which shouted in Arabic and English to be permitted to march around the Keleti train station, which has become the latest focal point for European tensions over an unrelenting flow of migrants from the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Passions also flared on Hungary's border with Serbia as right-wing nationalist protesters marched to the location where migrants use a train track to walk into the country. Police formed protective circles around frightened migrants as the demonstrators from the hard-line Jobbik party screamed abuse at them.



Migrants gather outside the closed Eastern Railway Station in Budapest, Hungary, Wednesday, after they were not allowed to board trains bound for Germany. ZOLTAN MATHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 28-nation European Union has been at odds for months on how to deal with the influx of more than 332,000 migrants this year. Such frontline nations as Greece, Italy and Hungary have pleaded for more help, while Germany, which is expecting to receive an EU-leading 800,000 asylum seekers this year, has appealed for EU partners to bear more of the load.

"We have to reinstate law and order at the borders of the European Union, including the border with Serbia," Hungarian government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs said. "Without re-establishing law and order, it will be impossible to handle the influx of migrants."

He said Hungary's prime minister, Viktor Orbán, will take a "clear and obvious message" to a meeting Thursday with EU chiefs in Brussels about migrants.

On Hungary's border with Serbia, some 300 extremists led by Jobbik party leaders waved Hungarian and party flags as they marched to the border crossing and shouted at the frightened migrants — many of whom had just completed a daylong hike along the rail line — to go back where they came from.

Elsewhere on the migrants' long route into Europe, 13 people died when two small boats ferrying them from Turkey to the Greek island of Kos capsized. Turkish media said 12 drowned, including a woman and three children, while another person died later in a hospital.

The Greek coast guard also recovered the body of a man south of the island of Kalolimnos. It wasn't clear whether that body was connected to the capsized Turkish boats about 22 kilometres (14 miles) to the northeast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCIENCE

Earth has 3 trillion trees: Study

More than three trillion trees now grow on Earth, seven times more than scientists previously thought. But it's also trillions fewer than there used to be, a new study concludes.

A United Nations-affiliated youth group had a goal of planting one billion trees and Yale forestry researcher Thomas Crowther was asked if planting that many trees would do anything to help combat human-made climate change. Trees capture and store heat-trapping carbon dioxide.

Crowther said first he had to figure out how many trees are on Earth and that number was far more than anyone expected: 3.04 trillion trees, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The previous estimate was 400 billion trees and that rough count was based on satellite images peering down from space. Crowther and colleagues used 429,775 ground-based measurements along with satellite measurements and computer models to get a more accurate figure.

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A boy rides his bicycle by a house and a vehicle damaged by a Saudi airstrike Monday in Sanaa.
HANI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bombings kill 20 in Yemen mosque

CIVIL WAR

Car explosive detonates as wounded are carried outside

An Islamic State-claimed suicide bomber and a subsequent car bombing killed at least 20 people Wednesday at a mosque in Yemen's rebel-held capital, Sanaa, amid the country's raging civil war, officials said.

The suicide bomber blew himself up inside the mosque during the evening call to prayers, while the car bomb exploded outside an entrance, they said.

Medical officials said the death toll may rise with people now in operating rooms in several hospitals.

Witnesses said the car bomb exploded while people were carrying out the wounded from inside the mosque, adding to the casualties.

One witness, Hamid Ali, said the explosions left body parts and bloodied floors in the mosque frequented by both Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

In a message circulated on social media, Yemen's local Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) affiliate claimed the bombing, saying the assault was revenge against the Shiite rebels known as Houthis that hold Sanaa.

The ISIL affiliate in Yemen has carried out similar attacks targeting mosques, including a series of suicide bombings on March 20 in Sanaa that killed 137 people and wounding 345.

Yemen has been mired in violence since the Houthis captured Sanaa last September.

The Houthis are fighting alongside army units loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh against forces loyal to exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi as well as southern separatists and local militias.

A Saudi-led and U.S.-backed coalition has been launching airstrikes against the rebels since March.

The conflict has killed more than 2,100 civilians, according to the United Nations.

Earlier Wednesday, gunmen shot dead two Yemenis working for the International Committee of the Red Cross on Wednesday as they were travelling from the northern Saada province to the capital, Sanaa.

Last month, pro-government forces backed by Saudi-led airstrikes drove the rebels out of Yemen's southern port city of Aden after heavy fighting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRAQ

18 Turkish workers abducted

Masked men in military uniforms kidnapped 18 Turkish employees of an Ankara-based construction company in Baghdad early Wednesday, bundling them into several SUVs and speeding away, Iraqi and Turkish officials said.

The 18 are employed by Nurol Insaat, a Turkish construction company contracted to build a sports complex in the Shiite district of Sadr City.

The kidnappers stormed the construction site, where the workers were sleeping in caravans, breaking down doors and disarming the guards before taking the workers away.

The Iraqi officials said an Iraqi national was kidnapped along with the Turks.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Tanju Bilgic said those kidnapped included 14 workers, three engineers and one accountant.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus confirmed the kidnappings and said Ankara was in close contact with authorities in Iraq.

"The Iraqi authorities for the time being do not have information on how the incident occurred or who captured them," he told reporters.

Wednesday's kidnapping harkened back to the sectarian violence in Baghdad in 2006 and 2007, when Sunni and Shiite militants kidnapped followers of the other sect.

In most cases, the bodies of those kidnapped were found a day or two later with marks of torture and a bullet wound to the head.

Baghdad has been torn by violence for over a decade, with roadside bombs, suicide attacks and assassinations occurring almost daily.

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MCDONALD'S

Canada missing out on all-day breakfast

McDonald's Canada has bad news for those looking to get their Egg McMuffin fix past 11 a.m. Spokeswoman Lisa Hutniak said the company has no plans to offer an all-day breakfast despite the brand's announcement that its American restaurants will introduce the option Oct. 6.

Hutniak said the company is keeping a close eye on the nationwide experiment by the Americans and are always looking to meet the needs and wants of their customers.

Twitter users were quick to decry the disparity.

"Y'all are monsters," tweeted @MsLolaOh. A user from Scarborough, @60mg-Maija, summarized their reaction in two words: "Thug tears."

Some even made it an election issue, calling on the leaders of all three parties to address the disparity.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Y'all are monsters**
> @MsLolaOh, a Twitter user from Scarborough

IN BRIEF

Laura to shut fewer stores

Laura's Shoppe, which filed for creditor protection last month, is planning to close 15 stores on Sept. 13 — five fewer stores than planned as landlords at several malls have agreed to cut rents and suppliers have offered significant discounts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Young adults bleeding bank of mom and dad

SAVINGS

Poll discovers marked rise in trend toward living at home

A new poll suggests adult children are draining their parents' retirement nest eggs.

The CIBC survey has found that two-thirds of Canadian parents polled say they're feeling the financial impact of supporting their adult children.

Almost half of them said supporting their adult kids is hampering their ability to save for themselves, while 20 per cent say it has actually delayed their retirement.

One in four parents said they spend more than $500 a month to cover their adult kids' rent, groceries and other bills.

The most recent data released by Statistics Canada in 2011 showed that 42.3 per cent of adults aged 20 to 29 lived at their parental home, "either because they never left it or because they returned home after living elsewhere."



Hannah Frazer returned to the nest after graduating to live with her parents, Mary Lou and Donald, in order to save money. COURTESY HANNAH FRAZER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In 2006, 42.5 per cent of young adults lived at home, a marked increase from previous decades (32.1 per cent in 1991 and 26.9 per cent in 1981).

Monica Boyd, a sociology professor at the University of Toronto who researches the reasons young adults live with their parents, said the rising rate is linked to several factors, including school attendance, postponement of marriage ages and family structures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM JILLIAN KESTLER-D'AMOURS



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TECHNOLOGY

Apple gets into news market

Apple wants to be a central part of how you consume news.

The iPhone maker has forged partnerships with CNN, National Geographic and others — more than 50 companies so far, representing hundreds of outlets. Apple will launch a News service on iPhones and iPads as part of a free software update this month. That means millions of devices will get the app on the home screen, with no separate download required.

Users get a customized feed of news. Tapping on an item delivers the story in a layout that resembles a print publication — without a lot of clutter found on many websites.

Although Apple has partnerships with just a few dozen outlets, thousands more are available through a feed technology called RSS. These are typically top headlines chosen by the outlet and presented in a standard format that various apps, such as News, can understand.

News outlets choose which stories go into the service, and Apple plans to leave it to its software to organize them. In tests of a preliminary version of News, negative stories about the company are still appearing prominently, alongside news on competitors.

The service is free, and outlets such as The New York Times that usually charge for online access are offering a selection of their stories for free.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, September 3, 2015

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE NDP'S BIG DREAMS



"Thomas Mulcair has been making some hefty promises ... he has yet to demonstrate how a New Democrat government would walk its election talk.

From a national childcare program to balanced budgets, the abolition of the Senate and the repeal of the Clarity Act, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair has been making some hefty promises on the way to a leading position in voting intentions.

But five weeks into the campaign, he has yet to demonstrate how a New Democrat government would walk its election talk on any of the above.

A national childcare program: The NDP is promising to create one million new childcare spaces over two mandates. The result would be a comprehensive $15-a-day program along the lines of the Quebec system.

But it will not get off the ground unless the provinces agree to pay 40 per cent of the tab. For its part, Ontario has signalled that it would want the money it already spends on childcare to be considered part of its share of the bill.

Quebec, whose government has been trying to rein in its childcare costs, would similarly expect to be compensated for its efforts to date.

Looking at the lay of the land in Canada's biggest provinces, getting to one million new spaces could either take more than eight years or call for significantly more federal dollars.

A balanced budget: When the Liberals, under Paul Martin, belatedly turned their minds to a national childcare initiative in 2004, the federal government was awash in money. Instead of overflowing coffers, an incoming NDP government would find bare cupboards.

The federal fiscal outlook has deteriorated along with Canada's economy. Over their decade in power, the Conservatives have put billions of dollars of recurring tax cuts on the books and, in the process, curtailed the federal capacity to invest in new national programs.

The NDP is planning to maintain most of those cuts — notably a 2-point decrease in the GST; income-splitting for seniors and the recently enhanced child benefit, as well as spend more on a variety of social programs.

The New Democrats will publish a fully costed platform before Sept. 17 — the day of the Globe and Mail-sponsored leaders debate on the economy. Expect skeptics to go through it with a fine-tooth comb.

The abolition of the Senate: Quebec and Ontario — among other provinces — oppose this signature NDP promise. Moreover, Quebec will insist on having its longstanding constitutional demands addressed before it entertains any other reforms.

Some New Democrats have mused about holding a national referendum to force the provinces' hand on the issue. Good luck with that! Unless a majority votes yes to abolition in every province, the result will lead only to the entrenchment of the opposition of some premiers.

Even if one were to assume that the arrival in power of the NDP would magically be followed by provincial agreement to both clear the Quebec's constitutional slate and unanimously abolish the upper house, the amendments would still have to be voted in every legislature over a three-year period.

With zero representation in the Senate, how would an NDP government manage its legislative agenda over those years?

And then there is the promise — popular in Quebec but controversial in the rest of Canada — to repeal the Clarity Act and change the rules that would guide the federal government in the event of another referendum on Quebec's future. An NDP government would negotiate the province's secession on the basis of a simple pro-independence majority.

In the absence of Liberal or Conservative support, the New Democrats would have to lead a majority government to effect that change. But majority or not, expect that proposal to be dead on arrival in a non-NDP Senate.

Mulcair is not the first federal leader to vouch to pull policy rabbits out of a prime ministerial hat.

With zero representation in the Senate, how would an NDP government manage its legislative agenda?

In 1993, Jean Chrétien promised to make the GST disappear, to finance a national childcare program out of thin fiscal air, and to re-negotiate NAFTA, the free-trade agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

As in the case of the NDP, today there were plenty of unanswered questions as to how a Liberal government would square the circle of its promises. That did not prevent Chrétien from winning a majority victory and from jettisoning his cumbersome commitments at the first politically astute opportunity.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: A new fashion blooming



A strange craze that germinated in Chengdu, in southwestern China, is spreading like a weed all over the country and beyond. Men, women and children are wearing the "bean sprout hairpin," a hair clip that makes them look like they have a plant growing out of their heads. The barrettes, which come in daisy and rose varieties and cost about a dollar, are a sensation on social media, and it may only be a matter of time before they sprout up on streets on this side of the pond.

SOURCE: WALL STREET JOURNAL
PHOTO:AM730.COM.HK

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD



metroview

One-year abortion-forgiveness offer? I'll wait for real change

The Pope has called for "a widening of the church's mercy" when it comes to women who've had abortions.

That should sound like good news to a Trudeau-esque pro-choice Catholic like me.

But instead it adds another level of confusion to what is already an incredibly nuanced church teaching.

I don't doubt Francis' sympathy for women facing the "agonizing and painful decision" to have an abortion. The move might even help some women, because it directs all priests to forgive what is an excommunicable offence.

But the offer only applies during the Holy Year of Mercy, beginning in December. It's not clear what happens to women who miss that window.

"Pope Francis likes to have this merciful tone," Kate McGee told me. "Well, I think it's totally backfired, because now all sorts of people are going, 'What? What are you talking about?' One of my conservative friends was saying, 'Why is the Pope saying this? We already offer up absolution for any sin.'"

McGee is a young psychotherapist with the Jesuit college at the University of Toronto — a self-described feminist Catholic.

Church law already varies; depending on whether you knew abortion was excommunicable, whether you were forced, if you were under 16.

Priests in North America have already agreed to ceremonially absolve women who ask for forgiveness after an abortion. What's new is that Francis is widening that power to other parts of the world, where that power lies with the bishop.

The announcement is about tone, not substance, McGee noted. Abortion remains a grave sin in the church's eyes.

"I've never understood why abortion would be excommunicable, but not murder," McGee added. "If you're going to equate them ..."

I cut her off, blurting out, "I didn't realize that!" and thinking: That sounds ridiculous.

The Pope could correct the inconsistency and change law, though "there's no evidence he's going to," McGee said.

This is more like a limited-time Year of Mercy sale.

McGee has been told it's good the church changes slowly. That way, it can bring with it the great swath of cultures woven into it.

I've never been very patient.

Instead of muddying the waters of an already polarizing issue, I wish the Pope would keep focused on the kinds of root causes that could greatly diminish the demand for abortions, especially poverty, and more ironically for a patriarchal organization, sexism.

I'm sure some women will accept the offer of mercy, but I'm holding out for change.

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan





Wikipedia has blocked 381 accounts used by people paid to create or tweak entries

Minor anxiety over major book

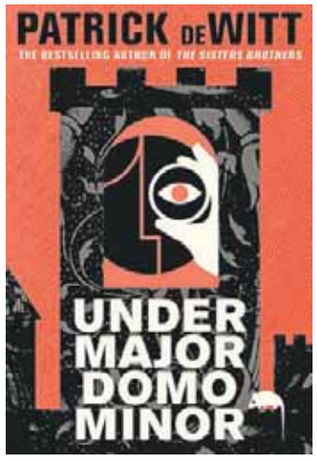
PATRICK DEWITT

Man behind The Sisters Brothers felt vulnerable with this followup

BOOKWORM



Sue Carter



There was a six-month phase during the three years that it took Patrick deWitt to write his new novel, Undermajordomo Minor, when he faced daily anxieties over the followup to his award-sweeping black Western comedy, The Sisters Brothers. "It was really crippling," he says.

The worries returned later as advance copies of the book, published by House of Anansi Press, began to circulate, and he awaited the first reviews.

"I was feeling very vulnerable at the time. You want the book to be judged on its own, but ultimately I realized I was powerless," he says.

In the end, the Canadian-born writer, who now resides in Portland, Ore., decided that what matters most is his own feelings about the work.

"Was this the best I could do at that time? I can't worry about the rest too much."

DeWitt's past worries are understandable. Not only was his 2011 novel a critic and prize-jury favourite, it inspired a rare fanaticism in readers, and was optioned for film by actor John C. Reilly, who will co-star as one of the hitmen-for-hire siblings (the two also worked together on the film Terri, for which deWitt wrote the screenplay). Fans of The Sisters Brothers will rejoice at the return of deWitt's wry, funny dialogue and over-the-top, almost slapstick violence.

This time, the protagonist is a young, shiftless compulsive liar named Lucy Minor, who takes a position as a servant at the mysterious Castle Von Aux, owned by a baron whose raging bouts of insanity result in one of the most disgustingly visceral scenes involving a rat in recent memory. While Lucy encounters petty thieves, bloodthirsty soldiers with no apparent cause to fight for and a treacherous "Very Large Hole," the story is grounded in his pure love for Klara, a poor beauty from the village.

Prior to Undermajordomo Minor, deWitt was working on another manuscript, this time with a contemporary setting, which he abandoned out of boredom. Historical eras, he says, give him the freedom to "exercise baroque, ridiculous language. With an antique setting you can deal with anything difficult."

Unlike some historical authors (if you can technically call deWitt one), he doesn't get caught up in research or worrying about accuracy — Undermajor has no identifying time or geographic location.

"Authenticity and attention to detail hold very little interest for me," he says.

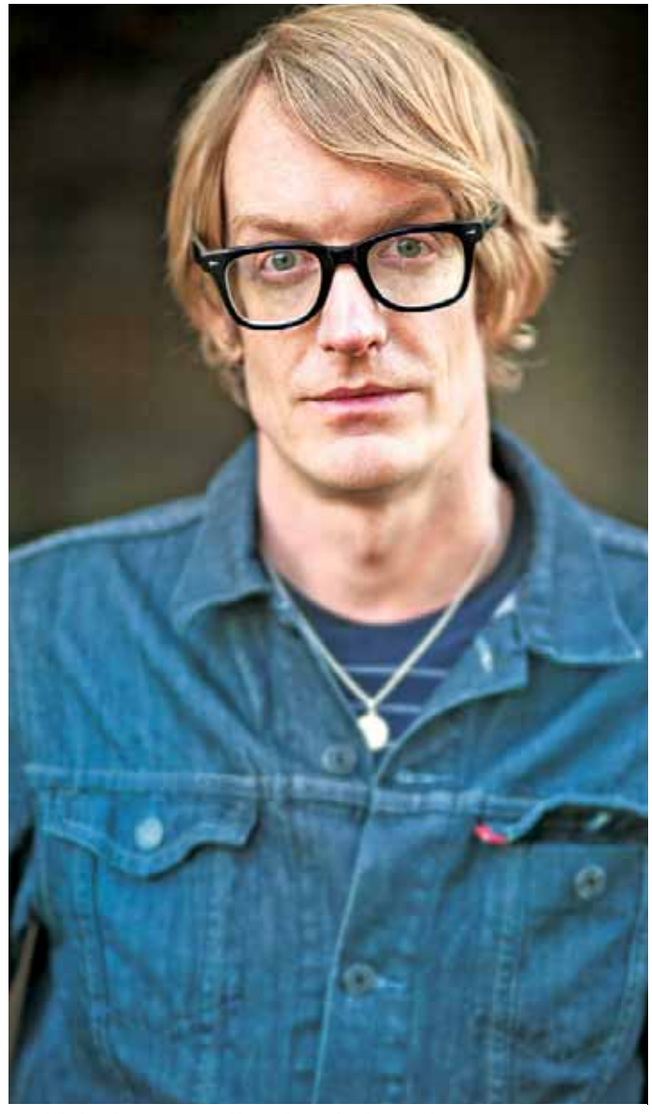
"It feels like homework, and I hated homework as a kid."

There is one bawdy scene in the novel that, without giving anything away, may test some readers and kill appetites for peach tarts and salami.

DeWitt, who is drawn to broad, slapstick humour like Monty Python or even Benny Hill, originally intended the scene to be a "lighthearted romp," countering an intimate love scene between Lucy and Klara, but admits not everyone might view it as such.

"It's never to revolt or shock the reader," he says.

"I like to write all sorts of different scenes: tender love scenes, scenic descriptions, comic dialogue. It's a pleasure and fun to write, and a way to keep it fresh."



Patrick deWitt's new novel is Undermajordomo Minor. DANNY PALMERLEE

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Fall books by and for all ages

STORYTELLING

100-year-old's memoir and teen star's first novel bookend new fall reading

Brian Selznick and Edwidge Danticat, authors of two of fall's most anticipated works for young people, both know something about living in multiple worlds.

Selznick has been travelling, in his mind, among movies, printed books and digital texts. He worked on drawings for The Marvels, a 600-page adventure across the centuries that alternates between text and illustrations, while adapting his novel Wonderstruck for a planned feature by Todd Haynes. He has also finally allowed his distinctively illustrated stories to be released as ebooks, and upon completing The Marvels thought of how he could convert it for digital readers.

"The challenge is always to make the story feel like it can only be told in the medium it appears," Selznick says. "When I'm creating a new story, it always begins as a book, but once it's finished, figuring out how to adapt it to other media is a fun challenge.

"In the end, storytelling is storytelling, and each medium has its own demands and opportunities unique to it."

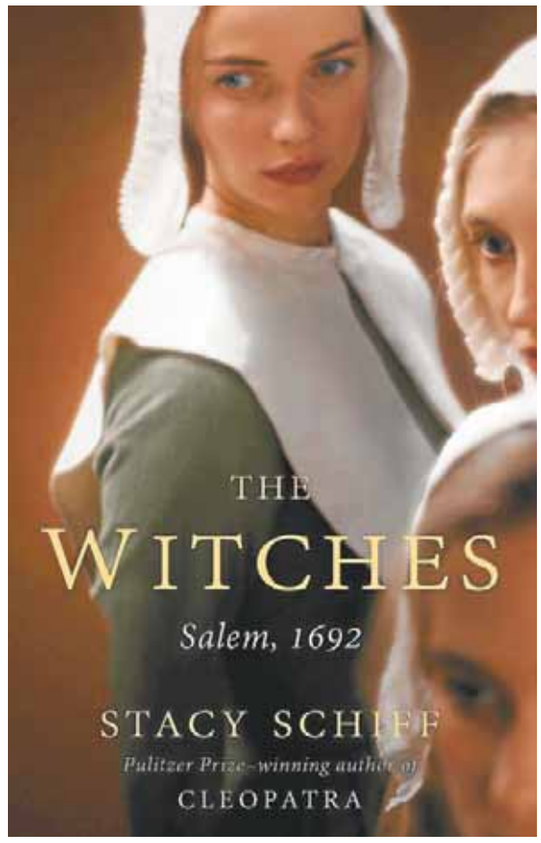
Danticat's Untwine is narrated by the teen daughter of Haitian immigrants as she recovers from a serious car crash. Untwine was a switch in style for Danticat, best known for such adult works as the novel The Dew Breaker and the memoir Brother, I'm Dying, and a journey back to a younger self.

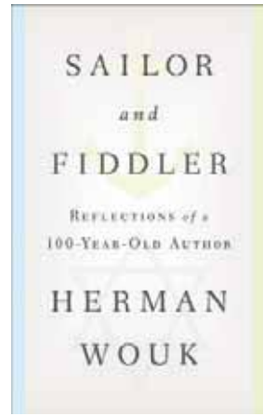
The next few months will feature books for all ages by authors of all ages — from a new Rookie Yearbook novel by teen star Tavi Gevinson to a memoir by the 100-year-old Pulitzer Prize winner Herman Wouk — with a few Nobel laureates in between.

Wouk, a published author for nearly 70 years, shares his rare perspective in Sailor and Fiddler: Reflections of a 100-Year-Old Author. A.E. Hotchner, 95, writes of his late friend Ernest Hemingway in Hemingway in Love. Stan Lee, 92, tells his story in words and illustrations in Amazing Fantastic Incredible: A Marvelous Memoir.

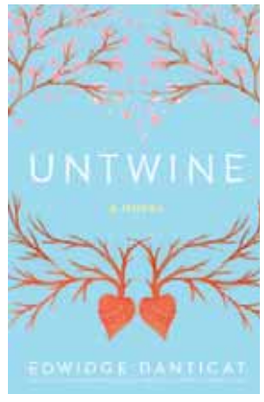
Punk and New Wave music are old enough that some of the leaders are writing memoirs, from Elvis Costello and Chrissie Hynde to Patti Smith and Carrie Brownstein.

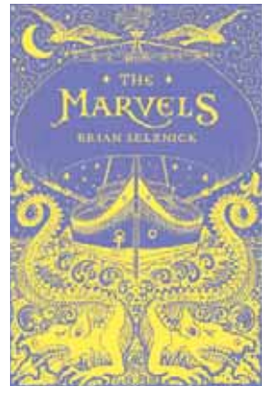
Actors also are looking back. Mindy Kaling offers the latest on her life in Why Not Me? Mary-Louise Parker addresses friends, family members, lovers and other men in Dear Mr. You. Jesse Eisenberg's humour pieces, many of which ran in The New Yorker, are collected in Bream Gives Me Hiccups.













OF WITCHES AND THE WEB

'Slanderous news travels'

Stacy Schiff, whose books include the bestselling Cleopatra and the Pulitzer-winning Vera, looks back to the 17th-century witch trials in The Witches: Salem, 1692.

"The similarities between the oral culture of that time and the Internet are approximately 100 per cent," Schiff says. "Something is mentioned once and suddenly it's everywhere. It's amazing the way slanderous news travels. And what we say is indelible. That's what happened in the 17th century. Witchcraft accusations wouldn't go away."

The fall is publishing's prime showcase for literary fiction, with novels by Jonathan Franzen, David Mitchell and Elena Ferrante, along with works from Nobel laureates Patrick Modiano, Orhan Pamuk and Kenzaburo Oe.

David Lagercrantz continues the late Stieg Larsson's Millennium series with The Girl in the Spider's Web and Anthony Horowitz has written a new James Bond novel, Trigger Mortis. J.K. Rowling resumes her alternate life as crime writer Robert Galbraith with Career of Evil. George RR Martin explores the back story of Westeros in A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms. Margaret Atwood, author of such dystopian novels as The Handmaid's Tale, conjures more nightmares in The Heart Goes Last.

"It's getting easier (to create dystopias)," said Atwood, whose new book features a community of rotating prison inmates. "You're just putting together a mosaic of what's around you, putting together things that are already happening somewhere or have happened and seeing what this mix produces."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"You're just putting together a mosaic of what's around you ... things that are already happening somewhere or have happened and seeing what this mix produces** Margaret Atwood on how it's getting easier to create dsytopian novels

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GOSSIP IN BRIEF Deflategate still hasn't blown over; Kermit spotted with a redhead



Tom and Gisele on the rocks

It hasn't been a great summer for Tom Brady, and not just where his football career is concerned. The embattled quarterback has reportedly also been facing the ire of wife Gisele Bundchen, who recently consulted a divorce lawyer, according to Us Weekly.

"Tom's become very nasty and irritable and started acting out on her" in the wake of the Deflategate scandal, a source says. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Oink with the old, in with the new

After Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy ended their relationship less than a month ago, both have new love interests, according to People magazine. The magazine reports that Kermit "has been spotted around town numerous times" with another pig, a pale redhead called Denise. AFP



TWITTER TIFF

What do you mean, Lena Dunham?



Lena Dunham has spoken out to question the message behind Justin Bieber's new single What Do You Mean?

The tropical-tinged pop song finds Bieber cooing in the chorus: "What do you mean? When you nod your head yes, but you wanna say no." Earlier this week Dunham tweeted: "Let's do away with pop songs where a girl nods yes when she means no and vice versa, k?"

A day later, the Girls creator posted to Instagram side-by-side photos of herself and a younger Bieber with similar haircuts, and the caption: "How could anyone think I have an issue with Bieber?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

HARRY POTTER

A new generation heads to Hogwarts

Harry Potter's fictional son will be among the nervous British children making the move to big school this week, novelist J.K. Rowling has told fans in an announcement that made a generation of loyal readers feel old.

"I'm in Edinburgh, so could somebody at King's Cross wish James S Potter good luck for me? He's starting at Hogwarts today.

"#BackToHogwarts," Potter creator Rowling told her followers in a tweet on Tuesday. In a second tweet later in the day she said the 11-year-old, who was born in 2004 to Harry and Ginny Potter, had joined Gryffindor, the same house that his father attended at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in Scotland. AFP

She said see you l8ter boi

SPLIT

Chavril announce separation on Instagram

Chavril is kaput.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger announced their separation on Lavigne's Instagram account on Wednesday, vowing to remain "the best of friends."

The couple's whirlwind romance began in March 2012, when Kroeger was enlisted to help with the songwriting on Lavigne's self-titled fifth record.

They began dating in July, became engaged in August, and married the following Canada Day at a grand medieval castle in France.

Over the last year, both Canadian rockers have dealt with health issues.

Lavigne, 30, conceded she was dealing with illness in December and clarified in May that she had been diagnosed with Lyme disease.

Kroeger, 40, had to recently cancel Nickelback tour dates in North America and Europe because the Hanna, Alta., singer required surgery for a cyst on his larynx.



Chad Kroeger and Avril Lavigne married in 2013. GETTY IMAGES

Lavigne's Instagram statement, which was accompanied by a photo of the couple dancing, referenced their shared musical accomplishments.

Kroeger co-wrote 10 tracks on Lavigne's last album, produced three and co-produced four. Their duet, Let Me Go, hit No. 12 on the Canadian chart and also made the Top 100 in the U.S., Australia and Germany.

"It is with heavy heart that Chad and I announce our separation today," wrote the Napanee, Ont., native.

"Through not only the marriage, but the music as well, we've created many unforgettable moments. We are still, and forever will be, the best of friends, and will always care deeply for each other.

"To all our family, friends and fans, thank you sincerely for the support."

It was the second marriage for Lavigne, whose union with Sum 41 rocker Deryck Whibley ended in 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Your essential daily news



Drape Turkish towels over chairs to jazz up an outdoor space

Developers get to the art of the matter

GIVING BACK

Funding for public projects a requirement for rezoning in some cities



CONDO TRENDS

Duncan McAllister

Public art enhances the urban experience and enlivens city streetscapes. In many Canadian municipalities, condo developers are required to contribute funding to the public realm as an offset for rezoning considerations.

In the city of Vancouver for example, rezonings greater than 100,000 square feet are required to contribute $1.81 per square foot to a public art process approved by the city. It's a way for developers to "give back" to the community, in the form of public parks, community centres, swimming pools and public art.

Ottawa

In Ottawa, the Corners on Main is a two-building, midrise condo project at the corner of Main Street and Oblate Avenue. This stretch of Main Street is slated for a complete makeover, planned by the city of Ottawa. Part of the design includes a city-commissioned art installation created by Ottawa artist Stuart Kinmond and will feature a series of geometrically shaped benches and three, six-metre towers. A series of glass images will depict landscapes of the Rideau Canal, the Rideau River and old Ottawa East.

Halifax

As part of an initiative to bring public art to the Halifax and Bedford waterfronts, Nova Scotia's Waterfront Development Corporation has partnered with condo developer Provident Developments to profile works by Maritimes-based artists Darren Byers and Fred Harrison.

Of Sea and Shore is a sculpture cast in bronze and textured with carvings. A stainless steel element represents the sprawling reach of the Bedford Basin.





OTTAWA Top: The Corners on Main is a midrise condo project by Ottawa developer Domicile. Bottom: An art installation by Ottawa artist Stuart Kinmond, part of the redesign of Main Street, will feature a series of geometrically-shaped benches and three, six-metre towers. COURTESY DOMICILE

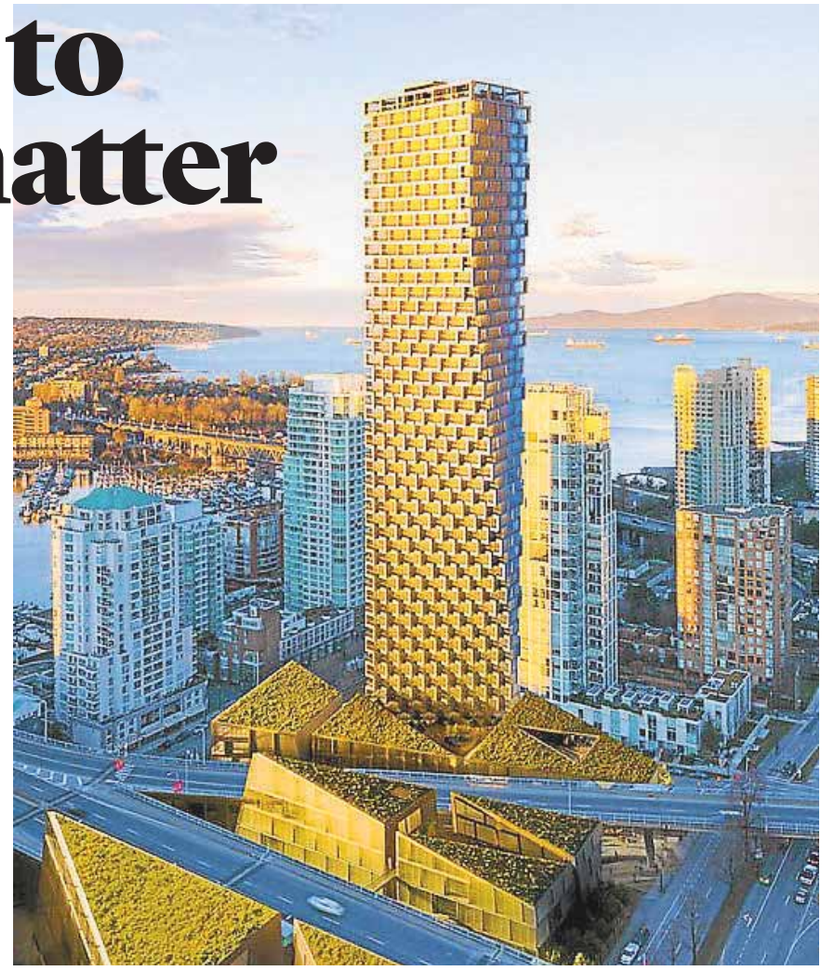
Standing four metres high, the sculpture will be located in a public outdoor space between the Dockside Condominiums on the Bedford waterfront.

Byers says that the elements come from patterns we see every day: "The texture in the rocks, the patterns in a field of grass, and the foam that forms as the water is stirred and flows."

Vancouver

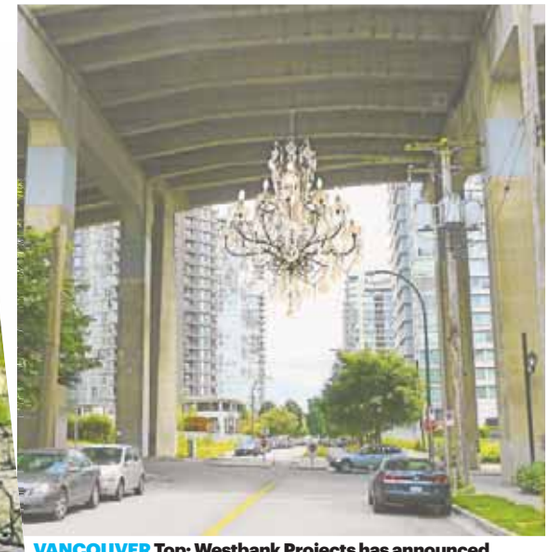
Vancouver developer Westbank Projects has announced a new 59-storey, twisting condominium tower, a prominent landmark at Howe Street and Beach Avenue. Vancouver House will be one of the city's tallest residential towers, slated for completion in 2018.

The project will include one of Vancouver's most innovative works of public art: an installation by renowned local artist Rodney Graham. A giant spinning chandelier will be suspended beneath the Granville Street bridge, the gateway to the city's downtown core. The large kinetic sculpture will take the shape of a giant faux-crystal, 18th-century candelabra.



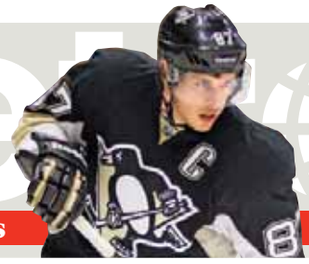
HALIFAX A sculpture commissioned for the Bedford waterfront by Darren Byers and Fred Harrison will be located in a public outdoor space between the Dockside Condominiums. COURTESY BYERS STUDIOS





VANCOUVER Top: Westbank Projects has announced Vancouver House, a 59-storey, twisting condominium tower. Bottom: Part of the project, a giant spinning chandelier by B.C. artist Rodney Graham will be suspended beneath the Granville Street bridge. COURTESY WESTBANK

metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news



Sidney Crosby is again the top player in EA Sports' NHL 16 video game with a 96 rating

Jays slide by Indians

MLB

Donaldson tallies 3 RBIs, Dickey goes the distance

Even in an MVP-calibre season, Josh Donaldson finds new ways to impress.

The Toronto third baseman drove in a run in the first inning and two in the second, upping his MLB-leading RBI total to 111 in the Blue Jays' 5-1 win over the Cleveland Indians on Wednesday. He also showed off his hustle and athleticism, diving though the air to evade catcher Yan Gomes' tag and score on a shallow sacrifice fly ball by Troy Tulowitzki in the second.

"It's gotten to the point where nothing this guy does surprises you any more. I mean he's a super-hero, really," said Jays starter R.A. Dickey, who threw a complete-game four-hitter. "He is in a special place right now."

"He's on a mission," echoed Toronto manager John Gibbons.

Donaldson played down his second-inning heroics, saying he just saw the opportunity with second baseman Jason Kipnis back-peddling to get to the ball.

"So I took it," he said.

With the sellout crowd chanting M-V-P, Donaldson singled, doubled and doubled before Cleveland finally induced him to ground out in the seventh inning. And Donaldson made that play close at the bag.

In the third, he challenged Indians left-fielder Michael Brantley and won, turning a single into a double.

It was Donaldson's 48th multi-hit game and 14th three-hit game this season. His RBI total is the most by a Blue Jay since Jose Bautista's 124 in 2010.



Josh Donaldson slides safely across home plate against Indians catcher Yan Gomes at Rogers Centre on Wednesday night.
TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

WEDNESDAY In Toronto

BLUE JAYS	INDIANS
5	1

The surging Jays (76-57) have won 10 of their last 12 and are 31-11 since the all-star break. They are 33-13 in their last 46 home games.

Still, the New York Yankees defeated Boston 13-8 earlier in the day to remain 1-1/2 games back of the Jays in the American League East.

Dickey (10-10) retired the Indians in order in seven of his nine innings, dispatching 14 straight batters at one point for his 99th career win and 15th complete game.

"Dickey was so good.... He just threw a lot of strikes," said Cleveland manager Terry Francona. "First time through you saw him show the fastball and then go to the knuckleball. Once he got it rolling, man, for a ball to move that much and for him to command it that well, it was really impressive." THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOT AUGUST

Encarnacion named AL player of the month

After dominating at the plate for all of August, Toronto Blue Jays slugger Edwin Encarnacion has been named the American League's player of the month.

Toronto's first baseman/designated hitter had a league-best .407 average for August, hitting 11 homers and driving in 35 runs over that span.

He also finished first in the league in slugging percentage (.907) and extra-base hits (21).

Encarnacion had a hit in every game he played in August as he built a 26-game hitting streak from July 26 to Aug. 31.



Matt Nichols
TODD KOROL/GETTY IMAGES

CFL

Bombers deal for veteran quarterback

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers acquired veteran quarterback Matt Nichols from the Edmonton Eskimos on Wednesday for a conditional seventh-round 2017 draft pick.

The six-foot-two, 215-pound Nichols joined Edmonton as a free agent in 2010. He started 12 games with the Eskimos, posting a 5-7 record.

All five victories have come this year, as Nichols was 5-2 as the Eskimos starter in 2015 after incumbent Mike Reilly suffered a knee injury in the club's season opener.

Nichols has completed 270 of 443 passes for 3,386 yards and 19 TD strikes during his CFL career but has also surrendered 18 interceptions.

He certainly fills a need for the Bombers (3-6), who've dropped two straight since starter Drew Willy suffered a knee injury.

The initial diagnosis was Willy would miss six-to-eight weeks with the injury but there's speculation it could cost him the remainder of the season.

"Matt is a player with significant experience in this league," Bombers GM Kyle Walters said in a statement. "He has proven to be a solidified quarterback, and will come in and add immediate depth to this position on our roster." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Yanks keep pace in AL East

Stephen Drew and the rest of the bottom of the batting order helped the New York Yankees open an 11-run lead.

The Yankees needed almost all of it to leave Fenway Park just 1-1/2 games behind the Blue Jays in the AL East.

"They put up a big number, and we were able to make it stick," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said after New York beat Boston 13-8 on Wednesday. "When you get guys down there producing the way they are, a lot of times you can put up big numbers. And we did." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raonic, Bouchard get wins at Flushing Meadows

Milos Raonic was lying prone on the court while a trainer put the tennis star through a series of stretches.

He had tore through the opening set of his second-round match at the U.S. Open when a troublesome back injury caught up with him. For a while, the 10th seed wondered if he'd be able to finish the match.

Raonic rebounded and toughed out a 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (1) win over Spain's Fernando Verdasco on Wednesday to advance to the third round of the final Grand Slam of the season.

Later, Raonic was joined in the third round by fellow Canadian Eugenie Bouchard, who downed Polona Hercog of Slovenia 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada better versus Cuba at in Mexico City

Andrew Wiggins and Nik Stauskas each had 15 points to lead Canada to a 101-59 rout of Cuba on Wednesday at the FIBA Americas men's basketball championship.

A day after losing their tournament opener to Argentina, the Canadians came back with a complete team effort to book a spot in the second round.

Canada got a huge contribution from its bench, with Brady Heslip and Dwight Powell scoring 12 and 10 points respectively and Aaron Doornekamp pulling down nine rebounds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Apricot Soy-Glazed Chicken



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A delicious and easy dish to prepare, made in minutes.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 1/2 lb boneless chicken breasts
- 1/2 cup apricot jam
- 1/4 cup light soy sauce
- 2 tsp toasted sesame seeds
- 1/3 cup dried apricots
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro or parsley

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Spray a baking sheet with vegetable oil.
2. In a heated grill pan, sear the chicken on both sides for about five minutes total. Place on baking sheet.
3. In a small skillet, add jam and soy sauce. Bring to a boil, then simmer for two minutes just until bubbling. Spoon half over chicken, sprinkle with sesame seeds and bake just until temperature reaches 165 F, about 10 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, add hot water to apricots and microwave on high for 30 seconds. Let sit for two minutes until plump. Drain and slice in half.
5. Serve with remaining sauce, sliced apricots and cilantro.

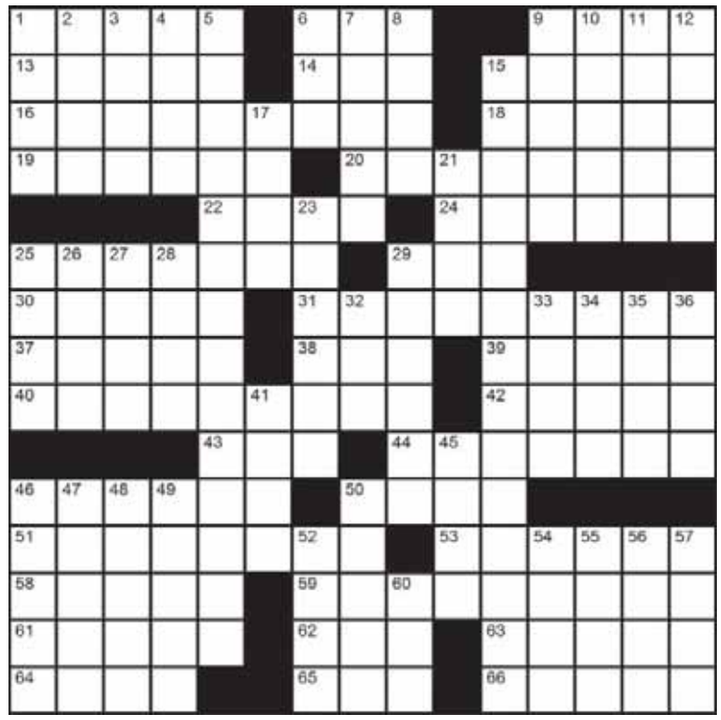
Nutrition per serving

- Calories 336.5
- Protein 41 g
- Carbohydrates 35 g
- Fibre 0 g
- Total fat 3 g
- Saturated fat 0.6 g
- Cholesterol 98 mg
- Sodium 640 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Dapper shoe coverings
6. Abbreviations between the names of competing sports teams
9. Halt
13. Bound-to-the-land person of ancient Sparta
14. "The Simpsons" storekeeper
15. Where Tahrir Square is in Africa
16. Botanical garden
18. Earthenware pots
19. Austrian composer Mr. Mahler (b.1860 - d.1911)
20. Wheeled casino game
22. The _ Bible (John Kennedy Toole novel)
24. Snacked
25. Gives the class a project
29. Fish part
30. "Turn Me _" by Loverboy
31. Monstrous
37. Antelope of Africa
38. Dinghy direction-er
39. Ex-Pres. Bush's wife
40. Jock's 'shot' at the clinic
42. Bright beam
43. Mr. Barrett of early Pink Floyd
44. Puck no-go-inner's
46. Regular television show played by Canadian comic Norm Macdonald in commercials: 2 wds.
17. Balanced
21. Portion
23. "Sunday Morning" on CBS anchor Charles
25. Welsh composer Mr. Templeton
26. Unaccompanied
27. Go parasailing
28. "Say It _ So" by Hall & Oates
29. Precede
32. Sought the public's vote
33. Montreal-born humourist Mort
34. _ d'Orsay, in Paris
35. Montreal suburb, Baie-D'_
36. Depletes dinner
41. Procedure, for short
45. Great pitcher Mr. Hershiser
46. Glances over
47. Grain fungus
48. Kept going and going...: 2 wds.
49. "You're still the one _ _ good night..." (Shania Twain line)
50. Water nymph of ancient Greek mythology
52. Pod vegetable
54. Do a gift-giver's task
55. Magic spell starter...
56. Harness
57. Hideaways
60. Co. cousin
50. Fate goddess in Norse mythology
51. 1883's history-making volcano of Indonesia
53. Prince Island link
58. _ fatuus (Will-o'-the-wisp)
59. Defensive swarmer: 2 wds.
61. Highway-crossing danger
62. Laboratory labyrinth learner
63. _' to go (Eager)
64. Remote scientific facilities, e.g.
65. Do some math
66. Bridges

DOWN
1. Layered hairstyle
2. Modern spot of the Inca empire
3. Belonging to Calgary's prov.
4. Tugboat's sound
5. Song by Canadian animated pop duo Prozzak: 2 wds.
6. Cistern
7. Brush aside
8. Wrestling of Japan
9. Bargains
10. Farmland
11. Pontificate
12. Did a supermodel's work
15. KFC founder now

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Find a balance between the parts of your nature that like to feel secure and those parts that like to take a risk. Creatively and romantically this is a great time for you. Don't waste it on indecision or self-doubt.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You play favorites but the current cosmic set-up is urging you to be even-handed in your approach to life and people you deal with on a one-to-one basis. Treat everyone with the same courtesy.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Are your plans realistic? If they are you will make great progress. If not, you will be forced to rethink what you are doing.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Focus on quality rather than quantity. Too often in the past you have scattered your energies in all directions. Now you must concentrate on the two or three things you do really well.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will do something extra special today, something that gets you noticed. Do it with style and your name will be known by all the right people.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Great changes are possible but you must be honest with yourself. Part of the reason you have not succeeded to the extent that you should have is because you have been unwilling to put a name to your desires.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You are torn between the future and the past and must find ways to bring them together. The best way is to learn from what has gone wrong before and make sure you don't make the same mistakes again.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Stay true to what you believe in, even if it brings you into conflict with an authority. Just because someone is powerful does not mean they are right. Act on your principles.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It is a waste of time trying to work out what is going to happen next. Go with the flow and trust that fate will steer you in the right direction — somehow it always does.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may feel sorry for people who are down on their luck but don't start thinking that you are to blame. The best way to do your bit for others is to take care of those you are closest to. Charity begins at home.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You need to look at life from a more detached point of view. Some of the things you have allowed yourself to get worked up about are simply not worth the bother.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Strive to find a middle way and you will do yourself a favour, especially on the work front where colleagues and employers will respond in kind if you are willing to give ground.

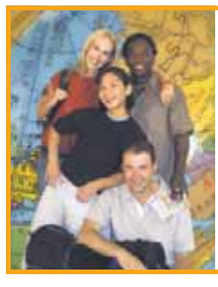
CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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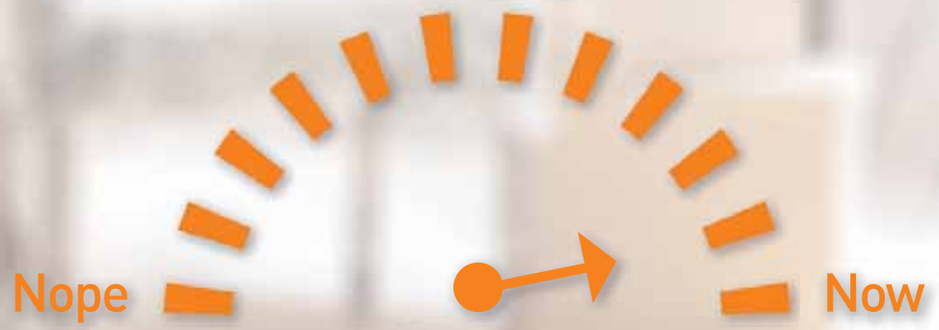
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Schonsee
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Luna 2050 sq. ft.
Cy Becker
3 beds / 2.5 baths



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Cy Becker
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Pandorian 2035 sq. ft.
Cy Becker
3 beds / 2.5 baths

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